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MICHAELS  
INTERVIEW  
EVER!**

P.50



**FREE  
POSTER  
INSIDE!**

**TRIPLE H  
SPITS THE  
TRUTH!**

P.38

★ **WWE EXCLUSIVE!**

# SUPERSTARS UNITED!

**WHO'LL BE THE FACE  
OF WWE IN 2014?**



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★ **THE NEXT PAUL  
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★ **DIVAS IN UGLY  
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★ **THE 25 GREATEST  
GIFTS FROM WWE!**

**YOU'RE  
WELCOME!**





It's **Not** Tender Loving Care...





It's Tables, Ladders and Chairs



SUN **DECEMBER 15** 8E/5P  
LIVE ON PAY-PER-VIEW

#WWETLC

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FRANCIA RAISA MIKE 'THE MIZ' MIZANIN WILL GREENBERG

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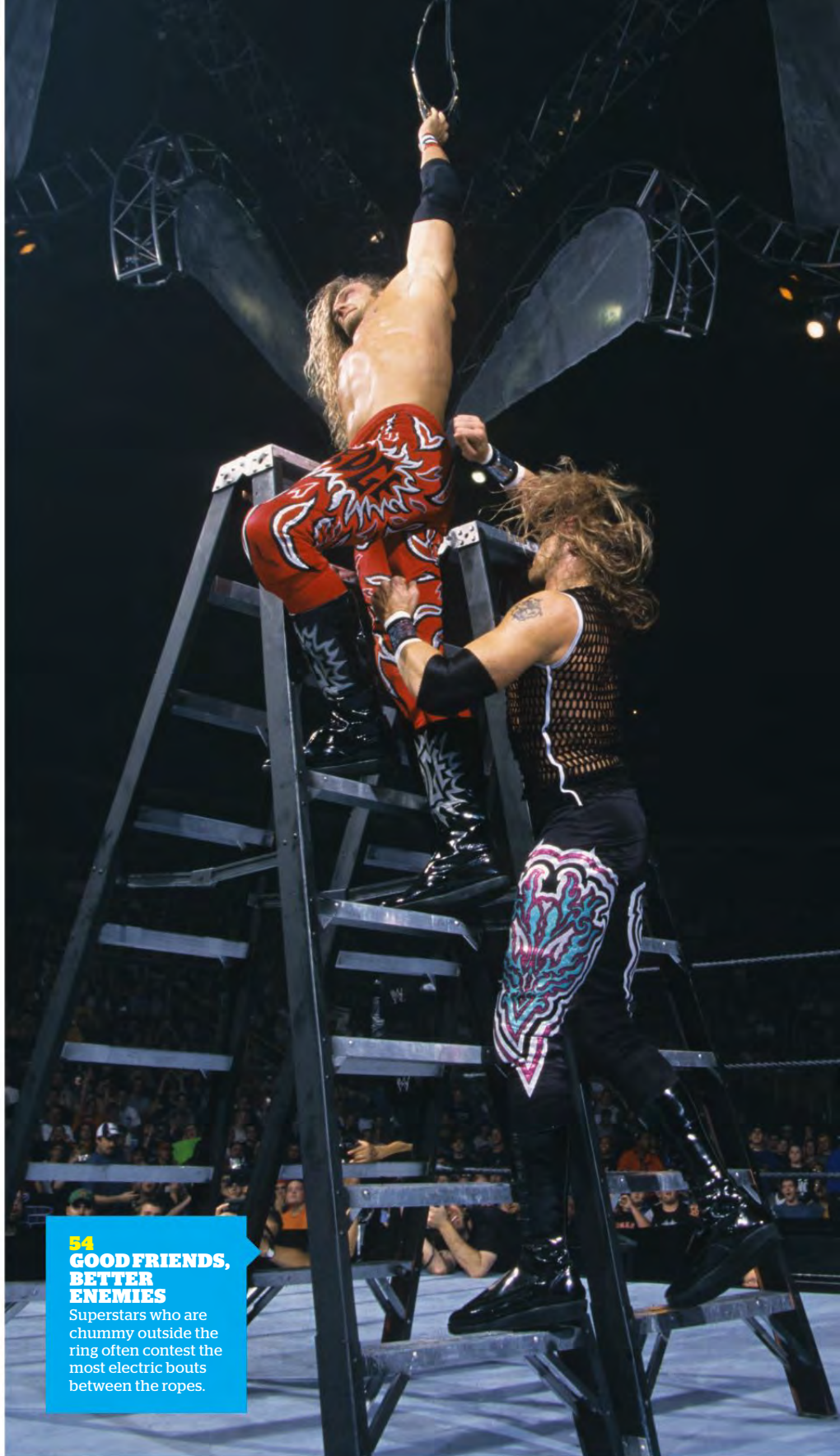


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#WRESTLEMANIA



**A FESTIVUS!**

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM WWE MAGAZINE!

It's the most wonderful time of the year in the WWE Universe...and here's why!



*The holidays are almost here, and we've decided to get a jump-start on our favorite part—the giving. In WWE, giving is always better than receiving, especially when it comes to finishing moves, submission holds and foreign objects. In this issue, we're giving YOU the chance to win some amazing prizes, such as autographed WWE merch, video games, toys, T-shirts, DVDs and more! Go directly to Page 60 to find out how to enter to win. But the spirit of the season doesn't stop there: We're giving you more, including our first in-depth interviews with 2013's breakout stars, Curtis Axel and Big E Langston; a look at the Superstars' favorite athletes outside of the ring; as well as Divas in ugly holiday sweaters! But our final gift to you is one that the entire WWE Universe has been enjoying for nearly 30 years now, a man we've gone so far to call "God's Gift To Wrestling." A man we all know as Shawn Michaels. Everything you need to know about WWE can be learned by watching The Heartbreak Kid's matches. The Showstopper gives his expert, in-depth analysis of every aspect of this business. This is a MUST-READ! SO...go to Page 50 now! We'll see you next month with our 2013 WWE Magazine Awards issue. Oh—and happy holidays, too!*

**ON THE COVER**



**JOHN CENA, DANIEL BRYAN, CM PUNK, DOLPH ZIGGLER, THE MIZ AND BIG SHOW!**

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**DIGITAL IMAGING BY**  
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# BRAWL

+ YOUR BARE-KNUCKLE GUIDE TO THE WORLD OF WRESTLING

RAW FOOTAGE

## DANIEL BRYAN W/BIG SHOW VS. DEAN AMBROSE W/THE SHIELD

SEPTEMBER 9, 2013  
TORONTO, CANADA

Daniel Bryan felt a constant thorn in his side once "The Hounds of Justice" debuted. The tactical-gear-clad trio tried to paint Bryan as the weak link in Team Hell No, but on this edition of *Raw*, Bryan undid a year's worth of criticism when he squared off against Dean Ambrose. "The Goat" dodged interferences by Seth Rollins and Roman Reigns, before rolling up the U.S. Champ for the win in an instant classic. As far as kicks to the face go, this was one of the more cathartic ones.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIC JOHNSON









FRIDAY NIGHT FIGHT

## AJ LEE VS. NAOMI (W/ CAMERON) SMACKDOWN

SEPTEMBER 20, 2013  
CINCINNATI, OH

As the cast of *Total Divas* grew in popularity, Divas Champ AJ Lee saw her grip over WWE loosen. Tired of telling everyone—from The Funkadactyls to The Bellas to Natalya—about her in-ring prowess, AJ decided to show them. With Naomi riding momentum against AJ on the 9/20 SD, she aimed for a punishing sidewalk slam, but the resourceful champ spun The Funkadactyl into her Black Widow submission at the last moment. Naomi ultimately tapped as another victim joined AJ's web.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN GIAMUNDO







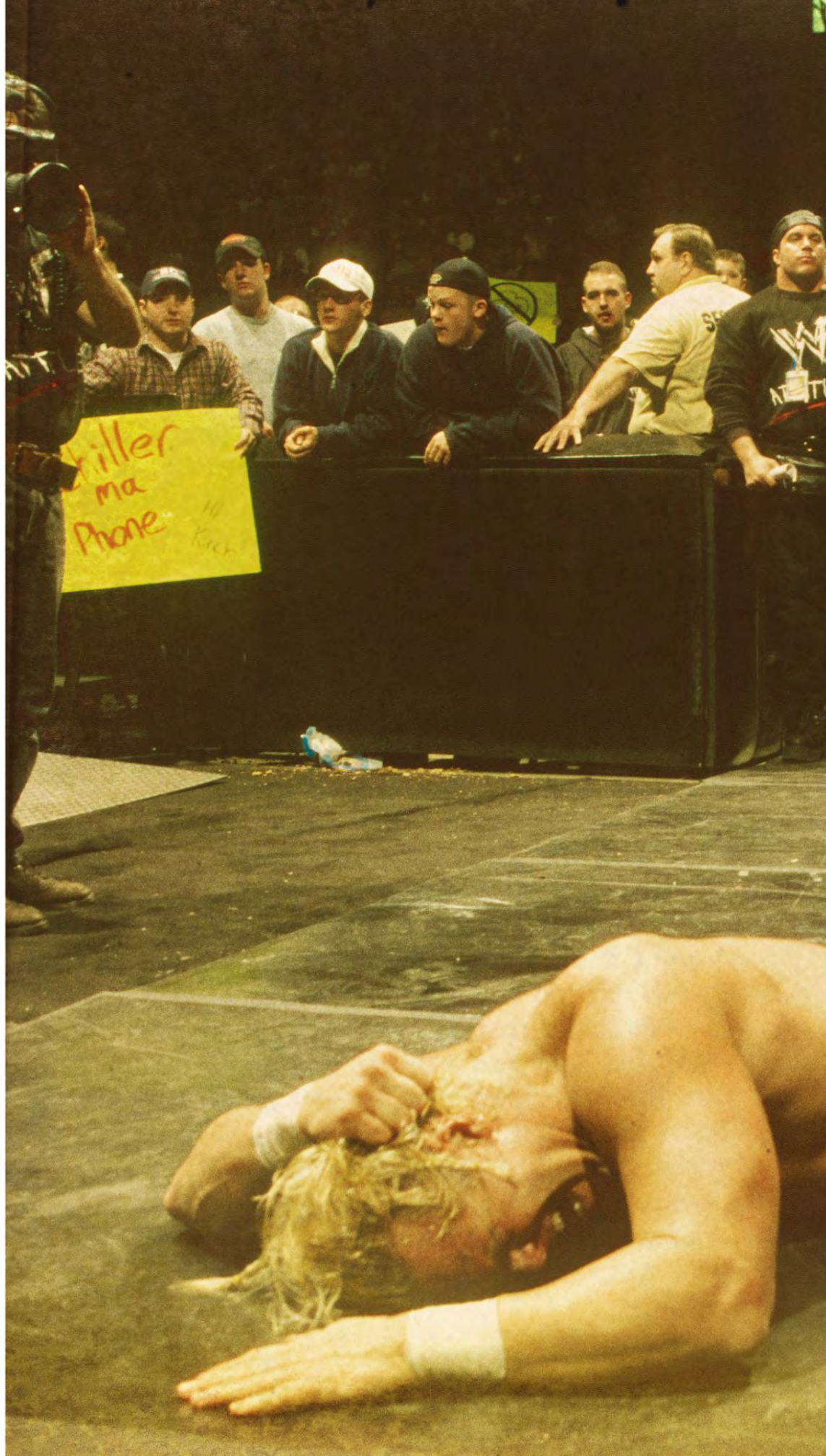


CLASSIC MOMENT

## KEN SHAMROCK “PUNKS” BILLY GUNN RAW

DECEMBER 28, 1998  
ALBANY, NY

Billy Gunn never shied away from speaking his mind. Some people find that refreshing, but Ken Shamrock isn't *some people*. When Gunn called Shamrock a “punk” for parading around with his Intercontinental Championship, The World's Most Dangerous Man wasn't down with that, as The New Age Outlaw would say. With Gunn giving hell to Kane in an impromptu match, Shamrock intervened, cinching in his unyielding ankle lock. The former champ still broke into the new year later in the week—just on one leg.









BY THE NUMBERS

## THE REAL AMERICANS VS. THE GREAT KHALI & SANTINO MARELLA

OCTOBER 6, 2013  
BUFFALO, NY

Antonio Cesaro made jaws drop from Switzerland to Sydney last winter when he lifted Superstars of indiscriminate sizes in his Neutralizer. This fall, he's taken to making heads spin with his Cesaro Swing. When The Real Americans battled The Great Khali & Santino Marella at the inaugural *WWE Battleground*, though, no one thought he could lift Khali for several seconds—yet alone spin him. But Cesaro hoisted the giant, rendering him too dizzy to kick out of the ensuing pinfall. Just when you think something is impossible, Cesaro proves you wrong.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RICH FREEDA

 **BATTLEGROUND**

# 1881

Year Buffalo installed its first electric street light on Ganson Street, which is less than a mile from the First Niagara Center. The city harnessed energy from nearby Niagara Falls to power the lights, which were the first of their kind. The technology eventually gave birth to Buffalo's nickname "The City Of Light." And you thought Buffalo just invented chicken wings.

# 15

Time, in seconds, Antonio Cesaro spun The Great Khali in this impromptu tag team bout. In what is probably Cesaro's most impressive feat to date, this Cesaro Swing of the 347-pound, 7'1" Great Khali lasted 11 complete rotations.





# 12

Length, in inches, of the snowfall in Talwara (in the Indian state of Punjab) in 2012. It was Punjab's first snowfall in 60 years. Considering Buffalo's record stands at 199.4 inches for 1976 to 1977, Buffalonians would likely call that 12-inch mark "cute."

# 20

Number of Swiss-born competitors to play in the National Hockey League. Jonas Hiller and Roman Josi are the only Swiss players in the NHL today. The Buffalo Sabres—who play at the site of *WWE Battleground*, the First Niagara Center—have never had a Swiss player on their roster, something that would definitely infuriate Antonio Cesaro.

# 39%

Percentage of lineouts compared to scrums performed in the 2011 6 Nations Championship for rugby. Thigh wraps like the ones Antonio Cesaro wears help players—called lifters—hold their teammates—dubbed jumpers—in a lineout, which resembles a football pass. The wraps make it easier for lifters to grip jumpers as they try to catch the lineout pass.









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# The Complete TLC Glossary

The perfect source for everything you need to know about the famous stip match and the pay-per-event bearing its name.

## 2000 *n.*

- The year of the first TLC Match. **The Hardys**, The Dudleys, and Edge and Christian clashed at *SummerSlam* in The Hardy's home state.

## BARCLAYS CENTER *n.*

- The Brooklyn venue hosted 2012's *WWE TLC* event—the first-ever wrestling event in the new arena. And yes, of course the Brooklyn Brawler made an appearance.

## "THE BEST IN THE WORLD" *n.*

- Refers to CM Punk, the former WWE Champion who has won three separate singles TLC Matches, including a Triple Threat TLC Match at 2011's *WWE TLC* for the WWE Championship.

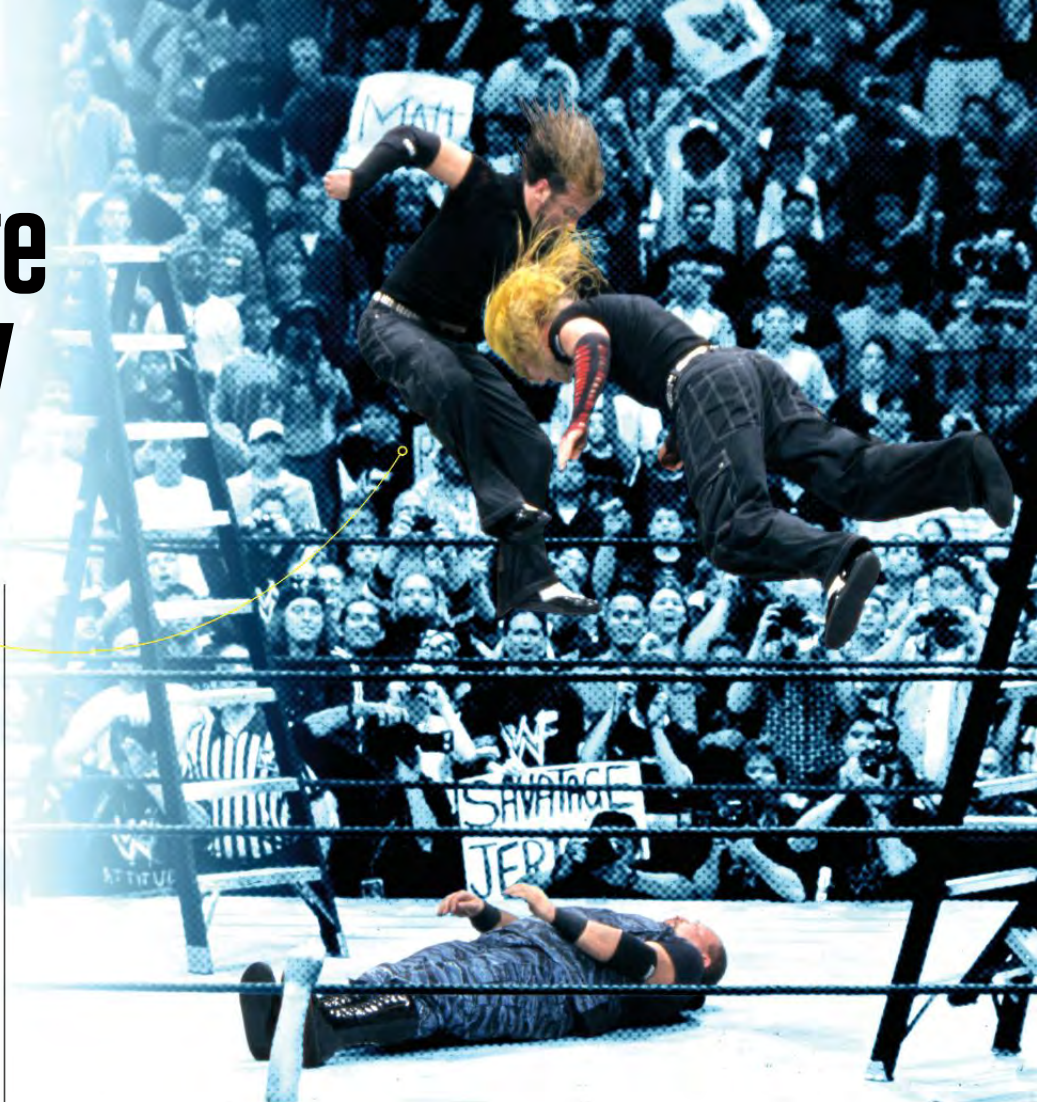


## CON-CHAIR-TO *n.*

- A finishing maneuver executed by Edge and Christian that involved hitting an opponent with both sides of a steel chair.

## "D-VON, GET THE TABLES!" *n.*

- A common catchphrase shouted by Bubba Ray Dudley to his partner (and brother) D-Von that signaled a table was in their opponents' future.



## EDGE & CHRISTIAN *n.*

- Former tag team partners who've won WWE gold seven times. Together they contested the first three Tables, Ladder and Chairs Matches.



## THE DUDLEYS *n.*

- Nine-time Tag Team Champions who brought the use of tables to WWE when they debuted in 1999, at the height of The Attitude Era.

**"D-VON, GET THE TABLES!"**

## THE HARDY BOYS *n.*

- Real-life brothers Matt and Jeff, who made a name for themselves in the tag team division during The Attitude Era for their daredevil-inspired, high-risk offensive maneuvers.

## HIGH SPOT *n.*

- A high-risk, typically aerial maneuver executed from well above an opponent. The Hardy Boys popularized them during Ladder Matches against Edge and Christian.



## JERRY LAWLER *n.*

- On his 61<sup>st</sup> birthday, The King became the oldest Superstar to complete in a TLC Match, when he faced The Miz in a losing effort on the 11/29/10 episode of *Raw*.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DEAR JERRY...





### SUMMERSLAM *n.*

► A pay-per-view event that was home to the first TLC Match in 2000, and the CM Punk vs. Jeff Hardy TLC Match in 2009.

### SWANTON BOMB *n.*

► Jeff Hardy's signature maneuver. Its most notable appearance came at 2009's *SummerSlam* against CM Punk when Hardy put Punk through a table using the move.

### TERRI RUNNELS INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT *n.*

► At *No Mercy 1999*, The Hardy Boys and Edge and Christian competed in a Ladder Match for not only a \$100,000 prize, but also the managerial services provided by the valet.



### WRESTLEMANIA 2000 *n.*

► Home of the Triangle Ladder Match for the Tag Team Titles, which was the precursor to the Tables, Ladders and Chairs bout.

### WWE TLC *n.*

► The pay-per-view bearing the match's name that debuted in 2009. It featured one TLC bout—a tag-team match between D-Generation X and Jeri-Show.

### RAW ROULETTE *n.*

► A special night when match slips are determined by a spin of the wheel. During the 10/7/02 edition, Kane single-handedly won a TLC Match for the Tag Team Titles.



### THE SHIELD *n.*

► A stable comprised of Roman Reigns, Dean Ambrose and Seth Rollins that won the first-ever TLC Match determined by pinfall or submission at 2012's *TLC*. Also referred to as "The Hounds of Justice."



## DON'T GO CHASING HARDY FALLS

# TLC OR TLC

How does WWE's annual cornucopia of tables, ladders and chairs stack up against the hit '90s R&B trio? Take a look.

## WWE TLC

Match 2000;  
pay-per-view 2009



## DEBUT



## TLC

1992

## BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENT

Hosted first wrestling event in Brooklyn's Barclays Center

"CrazySexyCool" sold 23 million copies & was certified diamond

## CONTROVERSIAL MOMENT

AJ Lee betrays John Cena in a match vs. Dolph Ziggler



Left Eye burned down Andre "Bad Moon" Rison's house

## BIGGEST HIT

Ricardo Rodriguez falls off a ladder through a ringside table



"Waterfalls"

## X-FACTOR

CM Punk

Jermaine Dupri





All we want for Christmas is Kaitlyn.

"LAST CHRISTMAS, I GAVE YOU MY HEART..."

## You're Invited!

Like giving a fruitcake or attending SantaCon, **"ugly sweater parties"** have become the new ironic holiday tradition. So with that, we let our favorite Divas scratch their ironic (and unironic) itch with the most hideous wool sweaters we could find, in the hopes that they, of all people, could make them look good. We were right.



# "My Worst Christmas Gift Ever!"

A new bike. Nintendo. An iPad. Cash! These are all great things to receive during the holidays. However, we've channeled our inner-Grinch and asked the **Superstars and Divas** to discuss the Yuletide gifts in their lives that were total botches!



AJ LEE



JACK SWAGGER



SANTINO MARELLA



THE MIZ



DOLPH ZIGGLER



WILLIAM REGAL



"Kaitlyn and I had this game where we send random, unicorn-themed gifts to each other—and they have to be more and more ridiculous. What started out as keychains evolved into giant glass unicorns you have to figure out how to get home. One day we're going to pool our savings and adopt a real one."



"I was in seventh grade, and really concerned about a certain watch that my friends had. My mom couldn't afford it, so she tried to get me the closest thing. Bless her heart, but it just wasn't right. It never looked as cool. Saying it out loud now, I feel like a spoiled brat, but I still can't help but give my mom a hard time about that watch."



"A mug. It's not the worst thing to get, but I have my mug, like I have my mug where I put my coffee everyday when I'm home. So it was wasted; it was a wasted gift. It's just a white mug with a small letter on it, which is from a school I spoke in front of. It was a nice gesture, but I actually fill it with pencils at my desk."



"My grandfather thought it would be a good idea when I was 17 to give me a wool Christmas sweater with reindeer on it. He really thought I'd look great in it. It was the worst one, but now it's the best one because I can wear it to ugly sweater parties. It's a bad gift for a seven-year-old, but an even worse one when you're 17."



"My mom and dad each got me Shania Twain and J. Geils Band CDs the same year. I'm not sure why she thought I was a fan. I never opened it. I liked the J. Geils Band, but I think it was a gift my dad got more for himself. It was like that episode of *The Simpsons* where Homer gets Marge a bowling ball with 'Homer' on it."



"Ugh. White underwear. The kind that people call 'tighty whities'. I wouldn't be seen dead in a pair of them. Not if I could help it, no. I wouldn't even wear them as underneath garments in case I was knocked down and had to be taken to a hospital in a vegetative state. Even then, I'd be really embarrassed."



## X-TREME X-MAS



→ *Christmas Bounty*, starring The Miz—premieres on November 26th on ABC Family, is WWE Studios's first holiday action flick—a genre with a deep and controversial history. Take a look!

*"I got to play a bounty hunter, so I was doing action scenes, but also showing off my romantic chops, some comedy, and more range. I got to get wild in the snow, perform some cool stunts. I did everything, next thing you know I'll be delivering millions of presents by midnight. I'm the next Robert De Niro...or the next Big Show."*

## THE GOOD

► **LETHAL WEAPON**  
This '80s classic totally holds up today. Enjoy it and feel nostalgic for the time before we knew how nuts Mel Gibson really is.

► **DIE HARD**  
This is the best. Action movie. Ever. If you haven't seen it, you hate America, the First Noel and all three kings.

## THE "MEH"

► **THE LONG KISS GOODNIGHT**  
Dottie Hinson, um, Geena Davis might've lost her memory but not her punching skill!

► **THE LAST BOYSCOUT**  
If things are blowing up around Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>, Bruce Willis is going to be near them. Damon Wayans is what makes this a bomb.

## THE BAD

► **REINDEER GAMES**  
Before directing saved his career, Ben Affleck became a punchline in this game we wish no one ever played.

► **BATMAN RETURNS**  
Too many villains (and clowns) are why Tim Burton's second Bat-flick fared far worse than his first.





Every 30 days, *WWE Magazine* celebrates the roster's most malicious malcontents and all the evil machinations they've wrought on the WWE Universe by honoring them with our prestigious trophy. Say hello to this month's bad guy:

**Fandango.**

#### **THE CHA-CHA-LA-LA JERK INDEX** **We're Willing To Overlook**

It's hard to put Fandango's theme music here because it's just so damn catchy. Sure, we'll probably get tired of this little ear worm eventually, but until then, our arms will be pointed high in the air till the cows come home.

#### **Kinda Jerkish**

Fandango spent his first few weeks in WWE refusing to wrestle opponent after opponent, leading up to *WrestleMania*. It was infuriating to them, and to us, who wanted to see if his ring-skills could match his dance steps. Dude, none of the "W"s in "WWE" stand for "Watusi."

#### **Major League Jerk**

It's ironic that when Fandango's rivals are in competition with Superstars not named Fandango the ballroom dancer actually decides to step in the ring. That either makes him a coward or a spotlight hog. And as far as we can tell, The Miz doesn't find his constant presence as enjoyable as we do.

#### **Total & Complete Jerk**

It's "Fahn-dahn-go." We get it by now. It's really not that hard. It's not Aramaic. So his insistence that we can't get his name right means that he's either trolling us, or he's a robot someone left on repeat. Let's hope it's the former. We had one robot in WWE already—his name was Lance Storm.

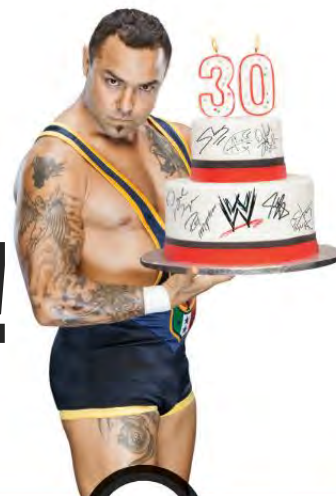
➔ "Jerk? I just don't understand. How could anyone not like me! I thought the whole WWE Universe loved me. They love my beautiful entrance music. They love my beautiful gear. And they love my beautiful woman, Summer Rae. I'm hurt and flabbergasted that anyone could ever call me 'Jerk of the Month.' As for my refusal to wrestle: Have you not been to the movies? They always show the preview before the main attraction. I'm just building the anticipation."



★ ★ ★ DECEMBER EDITION ★ ★ ★

# WWE Magazine's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!

This year we honored a major milestone in this tome's history. Every month, we'll be looking back at some of our favorite stories from our venerable publications first three decades. **Happy Birthday To Us!**



1988

1990

1993

1995

1998

## "Caught in the Act"

WWE Magazine; December 1988

Here's a photo of "Hacksaw" Jim Duggan, with his family's kitten in Glen Falls, New York. In case you didn't let this sink in yet. It's Jim Duggan. With a kitten. Meooooooooowwww!

## "Ludvig Borga: Lex's Wake-Up Call"

WWE Magazine; December 1993

In 1993, Lex Luger's feud with Ludvig Borga, Finland's greatest export before the Nokia phone, was white hot. Take a second look at this monstrous Superstar, his Jorts and high socks that scream "very Euro" years before Antonio Cesaro.

## "Freaks Like Us"

WWE Magazine; December 1998

Shaggy 2-Dope and Violent J (Insane Clown Posse) took a break from planning the Gathering of the Juggalos for this cover story on The Oddities and WWE. Magazines...how do they work?



2008

2005

2003

1998

## "The Wrestling 'N Arcade Connection"

WWE Magazine; December 2008

Take a second look at this comprehensive history of WWE games, dating all the way back to 1983. Three decades of virtual grappling give new meaning to the phrase "button-masher."

## "The 20 Most Powerful People in WWE"

WWE Magazine; December 2003

For this year-end issue, editors examined the most dominant forces in wrestling, ending (not surprisingly) at the McMahons. The family rules with an iron-fist. They're kind of like Kardashians in that way.

## "Pride of Pittsburgh"

SmackDown Magazine; Holiday 2003

The inaugural issue of SmackDown Magazine examines the behind-the-scenes life of Kurt Angle and his humble beginnings in Pittsburgh. We'd make a joke, but Angle looks hella tough in the photos.







**S1, Ep2. THE SECOND GUNMAN**

The show hits a groove with two new segments and zero arguments over JBL's hair. Cole introduces the "Tout of the Week" as we see JBL master the art of the "selfie" and head to Dallas to prove Oswald didn't act alone.



**S1, Ep3. HANK WILLIAMS FELL OFF A MOUNTAIN**

Flo Rida checks in with JBL and Cole at *Tribute to the Troops*. They reflect on WMXXVIII, that backstage scuffle with Heath Slater and Wikipedia. Before all that, The Brooklyn Brawler shows up and makes a plea to be co-host.



**S1, Ep5. SASQUATCH TRENDING**

In the shortened season 1 finale, The Great Khali attempts to Tweet. Who would've thought something so easy to 13-year-old girls would be a challenge for such a huge Superstar? Then again, have you seen his hands?



**S2, Ep 7 & 8. HALL AND OATMEAL**

In this two-parter, the pair duet on "Private Eyes" by Hall and Oates. And guess which one Cole plays? There's also a dance-off with Titus O'Neil and Darren Young. All that, plus a cameo from The Nature Boy Ric Flair.



**S2, Ep27. WHO'S THE G.O.A.T.?**

JBL's and Cole's handpicked bobsled teams race in this gem. Cole's got the Divas, but JBL has Swiss bobsled legend Antonio Cesaro. Apparently all that hair makes Cesaro super aerodynamic. He's the opposite of a swimmer!

# The Best Of The JBL & Cole Show

As the one-year anniversary of your Monday-night announce team's popular **YouTube** series approaches, we're here to catch you up on its five most must-see episodes. And a note to the hosts: please don't ever stop what you're doing here.

## THE JBL & COLE SHOW

### → The SuperSTAR Search Tournament

Sixteen weeks, four rounds, and a bevy of Superstars and Divas showing off their best skills outside the ring. Watch and find out who the winner was. Here's a hint: Greatest of all time!



## SOLVE THESE BRAIN BUSTERS

### LITERAL PPV LOGOS!!!

→ We made a couple of tweaks to our favorite Sunday-night logos. Can you identify them based on these, er, artistic...interpretations?



1

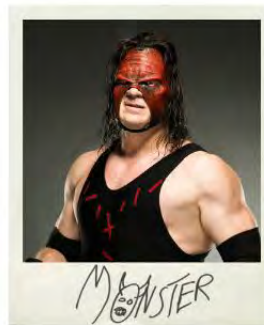
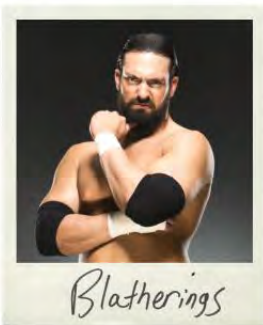
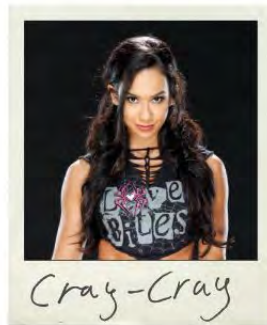
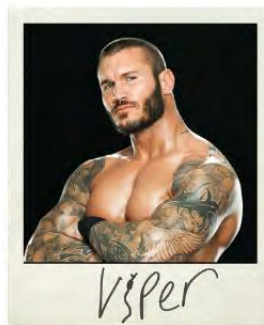
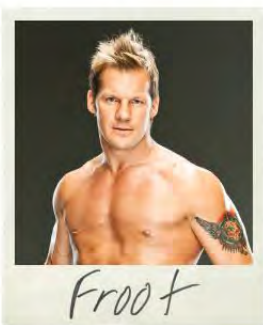
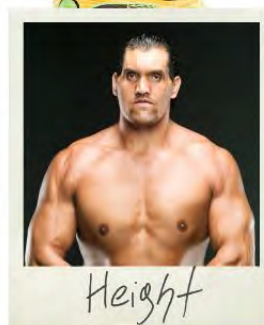
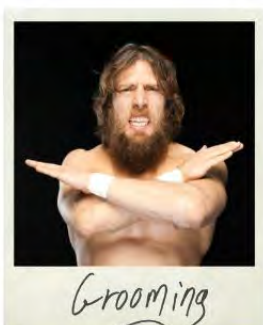
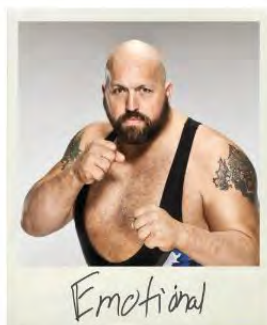


2



# The One-Word Interview

A picture may be worth a thousand words, but we only needed one from **Kofi Kingston**. We submitted these 15 photos of his fellow Superstars to The Wildcat, and he had absolutely no Trouble In Paradise dropping the Boom! Boom! Boom! on his peers.





PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
CRAIG AMBROSIO



# THEN AND NOW

*WWE Magazine* tracked down vintage photos of our in-ring vets, and while their ring gear has changed and their haircuts are certainly more modern, how different is the person holding that picture today?

## JACK SWAGGER

### What the Jack Swagger of 2013 would say to the man in this photo...

"What the hell are you smiling about? This country is desperate to be saved and you call yourself an All-American American?!? Wipe that smile off your face—who are you? I don't even know you. You've got a lot of growing up to do."

### The most important thing on your mind when this picture was taken...

"There was a lot of hype. I had a good background. Kurt Angle had just left, and I felt pressure to live up to a certain level. Trying to be different but trying to reach everyone's expectations for me and my own expectations, which I often set higher."

### How different is Jack Swagger then from Jack Swagger now...

"I'm grizzled. I can grow a beard now, but I think there are many similarities. For my size, I'm one of the fastest guys on the roster. But the main thing is knowledge and that comes from five years of working with some of the best wrestlers to ever step in the ring: Undertaker, Triple H, Shawn Michaels, John Cena, Randy Orton, Chris Jericho, Edge. Those guys all come from a different generation. And what they've passed down won't be available for new generations."

### Jack Swagger then versus Jack Swagger now. And the winner is...

"I was 260 pounds when I started, and right now, I am 281. It's the biggest I've been since playing college football. I'm the strongest and biggest I've ever been. Maybe I'm a little slower, but Jack Swagger now, absolutely, can take him."

### The current whereabouts of this outfit...

"Locked into a case that will be hanging on my office wall that will be right next to my ECW Championship."



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*\*\* Mails every other month.*

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# "YOU HAD TO BE THERE"

WHEN TEAMS SPEND EVERY MINUTE TOGETHER, BAD HABITS CAN BECOME UNBEARABLE IN A NANOSECOND, AS DARREN YOUNG LEARNED WHILE EATING WITH TITUS O'NEIL.



Each issue, look for comic, tragic or tragicomic tales as told by the Superstars themselves. This month, we hear from **Darren Young**

"Titus is a great tag team partner in the ring, but just not at a restaurant. He can take forever to order his food and can finish an entire meal without looking up from his phone once. It's like eating by yourself."



"It's rude, and embarrassing, so I decided the next time he did it, I was going to let him eat by himself. Teach him a lesson."



"So one night, when we sat down to eat after a live event, like clockwork, he opened his phone. This time, after I ate, I up and left the restaurant."



"I did some errands and shopping. I even had time to call my family. It was a pretty productive meal."



"I came back an hour later. But, just as I suspected, he still had his nose in that damn phone. He had no idea I was gone. Guess the joke was on me, actually."





That Holiday Cartoon

# Would've Made One Hell Of A Superstar!

Ever watch a Christmas special and think, "Charlie Brown reminds me of Tyson Kidd with his old haircut?" No? Well, we do. That's why we offer this batch of childhood faves who we'd love to see step into the ring.



## Yukon Cornelius

### Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

The case for Cornelius—he looks like a cross between a Wyatt family member and The Berserker, and he's got a handle that was ripped out of a *NXT* name generator. He also survived a fall off a cliff. Try doing THAT, Mick Foley!



## The Bumble of the North

### Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

The Abominable Snowman would've been right at home in WCW in the '90s, alongside the vampires, goblins and Disco Inferno. He's toothless, so he might want to stay off the mic. Which gives us an idea for Jinder Mahal.



## The Grinch

### The Grinch Who Stole Christmas

**The Grinch** was set to terrorize the denizens of Whoville with a Christmas sans presents until he had a change of heart (biggest good guy turn, ever!). In WWE, that over-sized heart is only going to get his spindly frame trampled on.



## Snow Miser & Heat Miser

### The Year Without Santa Claus

The Usos prove that a brothers tag team can succeed in WWE. The challenge for these two would be to put their rivalry aside. The other challenge: Figure out a way to tag one another into the match without melting.



## LITTLE PEOPLE, BIG WWE

→ In *The Hobbit: Part II* (out Dec. 13), Bilbo Baggins comes face-to-snout with a giant dragon. He should take some inspiration from these fighters.



## THE LEPRECHAUN GETS THE GOLD

**The Great American Bash, 7/22/07**  
Hornswoggle, the smallest Superstar on the roster, pins Jamie Noble with a Tadpole Splash to win the Cruiserweight Championship.



## MIXED TAG MATCH

### WrestleMania III, 3/29/87

The Haiti Kid, Little Beaver, Little Tokyo and Lord Littlebrook get into the ring with Hillbilly Jim and King Kong Bundy, and live to tell the tale!



## MINI ROYAL RUMBLE

### Raw, 1/14/08

Pint-sized Superstars impersonating greats such as Kane, Mankind and Batista brutally brawl in their own version of the 30-man melee.



## GIANT VICTORY

### Survivor Series, 11/23/94

Led by Jerry Lawler, The Royal Family won at 1994's *Survivor Series*, but the six little Superstars attacked Lawler once the match ended.








# BEAST MODE!



With his entire future still ahead of him, **Big E Langston** already has made a name for himself as the heavy behind champions such as AJ Lee and Dolph Ziggler. Here, the big Superstar reveals what he's learned from his henchman role, his first encounters with The Chairman, and what always makes him smile.





**B**ig E, you've spoken before about the Lion of Judah on your trunks, and how it is representative of your Caribbean roots. Do you feel the lion is a good representation for you in other ways?

A lion has always been a world-wide symbol of strength and raw power in many cultures. They're also agile, despite their size, and have the wisdom and patience to earn the elusive title of "King of the Jungle." That's exactly the kind of energy I want to encapsulate in the ring, and the qualities I hope to embody over time. I don't think the WWE Universe really sees that yet, but they will eventually.

**As your first year with WWE comes to a close, what aspects of the business have met your expectations, and what have fallen short?**

Nothing has fallen short. There's no such feeling in WWE, where everything seems larger than life. *WrestleMania*, and the grandiose nature of the event itself exceeded my expectations. When you're actually there, soaking in the prestige, you realize that this is, indeed, the biggest event for our company. There's a tangible vibe going around, not just in the locker room, but through the entire arena. It energized me in a way that nothing else yet has. Now I'm just planning my strategy on how to get to the main event.

**Would you consider yourself a proponent of doing whatever it takes to get to the top?**

Of course. I mean, why wouldn't I be? In this business you have to look out for yourself because no one else will—or wants to—no matter what they say. You do whatever you need to do to get the things you want, or you won't get them.

**As a former NXT Champion, was it difficult for you to go from being a big fish in a small pond to just another member of the main roster?**

It is a larger scale, but to me, it's still WWE. It's still a 20-by-20 ring, and it's still wrestling. I'm doing the same thing now, crafting my skills, which I was doing back then. I try and keep focused on that and not get caught up in all the lights and cameras. That's the approach I have to take, so I'm always telling myself that the ring is still the same, no matter where I am. So far, that's been easy for me.

**Describe the experience of meeting The Chairman for the first time.**

I was nervous. I wanted to impress him, so I was thinking about every move I was making, but that faded after a while. Thinking about all he's done, seen, and accomplished, I was definitely on my best behavior, and we're a lot more chummier now.

**Are you ever worried about working with the Divas Champion, that she might turn on you?**

AJ Lee is the Divas Champion for a reason. She thinks about every move she makes, dissects it, and nothing with her is ever strung together last minute. Am I worried she'll turn on me? Of course, but I think she and I both know that's not going to happen. We understand each other.

**Conversely, you spent a lot of time with Dolph Ziggler this year, what would you say you took away from the experience?**

Dolph Ziggler is very good at his job. It's something I knew before just observing him on TV, but after getting to know him and learning how he operates, I got to see firsthand how talented he is. He's a guy that I now have a lot of respect for. Also he's hilarious on Twitter.

**Speaking of Twitter, you're actually one of our favorite people to follow. Who are your must-follow folks on Twitter?**

I think you'll be surprised to hear this, but I'm going to go with my arch nemesis Kaitlyn. She's good, and her live Tweeting of *Raw* always keeps me entertained. From within the company, she's my favorite to follow and I usually always catch up with her feed.

**The five-count hasn't been seen since King Kong Bundy. How long have you wanted to incorporate into your matches?**

I've wanted to do the five-count ever since I saw King Kong Bundy doing it. It set him apart from the other Superstars, and put his strength on another level, which is what I wanted to do. It was an honor in the way it was passed to me, and it's really fun

laying it down on *NXT*. I'm just waiting for the first opportunity to get to do it on the main roster. Hand out the pain!

**So, what would you say is something people don't understand about you?**

At first glance, I'm just a guy with a lot of muscles who probably doesn't have a lot going on upstairs, but that couldn't be farther from the truth. There's a lot more to Big E Langston, and hopefully members of the WWE Universe will get to see that sooner rather than later.

**What is one thing or guilty pleasure that no matter how bad of a day you're having, will instantly brighten your mood?**

*Homeland*. I'm a huge fan of the TV show *Homeland*, so anytime I can get home, especially after a long loop on the road, and just get lost in that program, it's just the best feeling ever.

**Lastly, what are some nicknames you like that people have given you?**

I've always been Big E, but one nickname I've had for a while now is "Waffles," because of—literally—how many waffles I can put away. I can admit to having a voracious appetite, and maybe I did have one or two waffles here and there...



**"I'M ALWAYS TELLING MYSELF THAT THE RING IS STILL THE SAME, NO MATTER WHERE I AM."**



A full-page promotional poster for WWE Main Event featuring Kofi Kingston. He is shirtless, with his signature dreadlocks, and is captured in a powerful, mid-air pose with one arm raised in a fist and the other extended. He wears black wrestling trunks with orange and white graphics, including a large star on the leg. The background is a solid, vibrant orange.

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Where readers sound off on the good, the bad and the ugly in WWE. And we give you awesome swag for it!



## THE GAME STOPS HERE!

**Dear WWE Magazine,**

After reading about the Superstars you think could take down The Game (“Who Can Stop Triple H?”; November), I was shocked to see Undertaker’s odds so low! Not only did he beat Triple H three times at *’Mania*, but there’s no one who can take on Undertaker and get out alive!

*Bernie S.: Boston, MA*

*There is no one on the roster past or present that can go toe-to-toe in the ring with 'Taker and walk away with the upper hand. But Triple H is*

*comfortable in his suit these days (we would know), and Undertaker has no experience in that arena. Disagree? Send your thoughts to **MAGAZINE@***



HAVE A QUESTION  
FOR A SUPERSTAR?  
LET US KNOW!

**Dear Daniel Bryan,**

I recently held the top position at my job, but was demoted. Any advice on how to get back my spot?

ANFERNEE H. WEST SPRINGFIELD, MA

**"You got demoted because someone is out there doing a better job than you. My advice is to work harder, and pretty soon, people will take notice."**



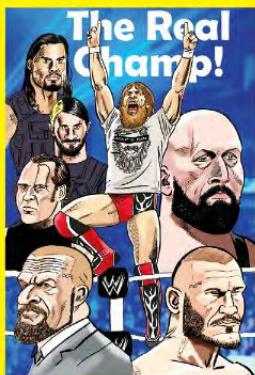
## ARTISTS' CORNER

# FAN ART OF THE MONTH

We're always seeking unique drawings of Superstars. If you've got the touch, send your work our way!



Email **MAGAZINE@WWE.COM** and we just might publish your doodles! This month, we're giving away a copy of *SummerSlam 2013* on DVD. See Page 74 for more information!



✱ JEROEN V., via email ✱



**\* JULIANNA M., via email \***



## SUNBATHING BEAUTY!

**Dear WWE Magazine,**

Summer Rae's interview was like standing under the sun. But I can't believe you didn't ask her this: What is her favorite summertime activity?

Luckily for you, we did ask her. It's much different from ours—sitting in A/C in our boxer shorts.

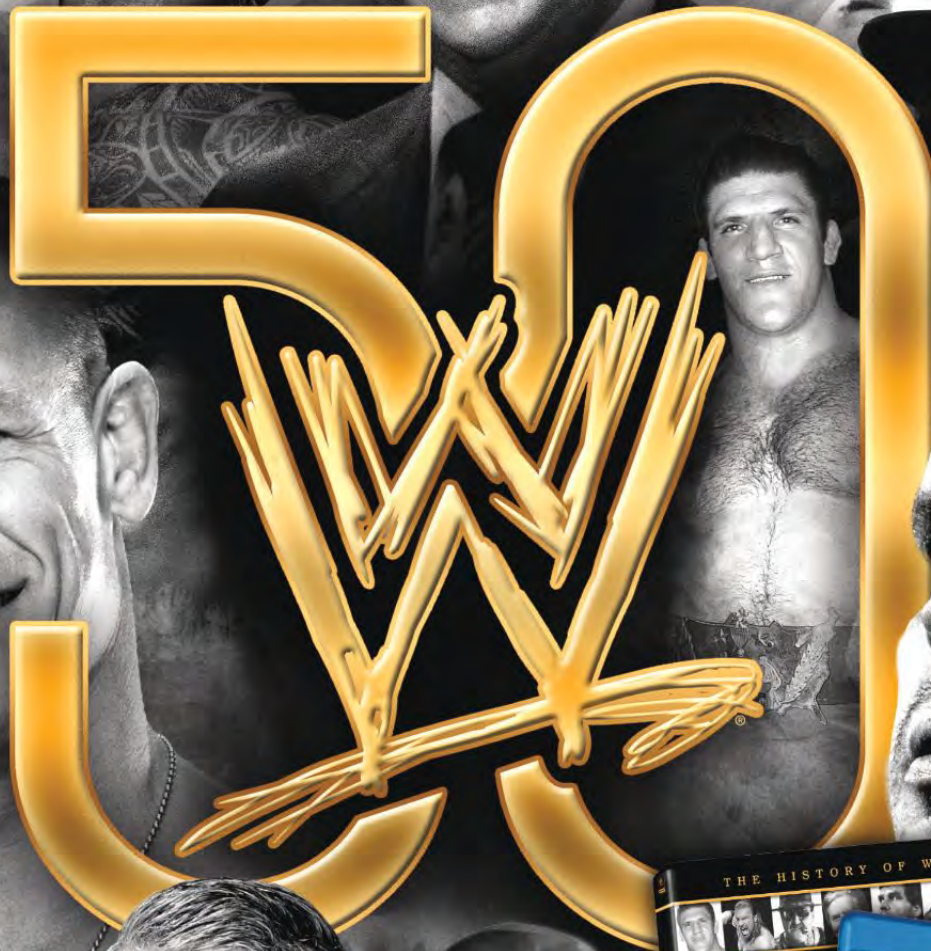
"It's cliché, but I love summer and swimming! I also try to get my naturally blond hair as light as possible, so that means lots of time outside!"

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# THE HISTORY OF WWE

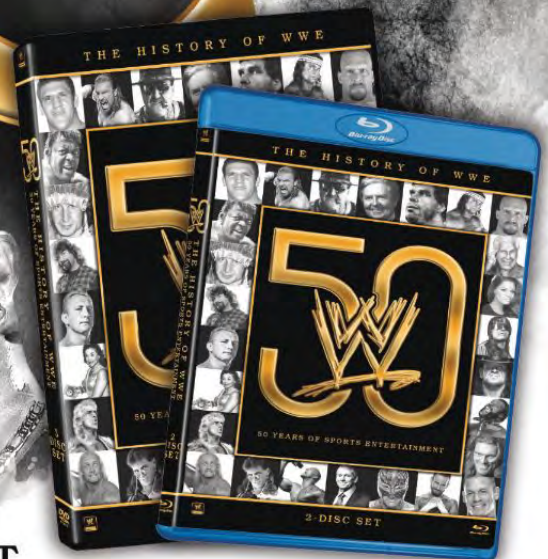
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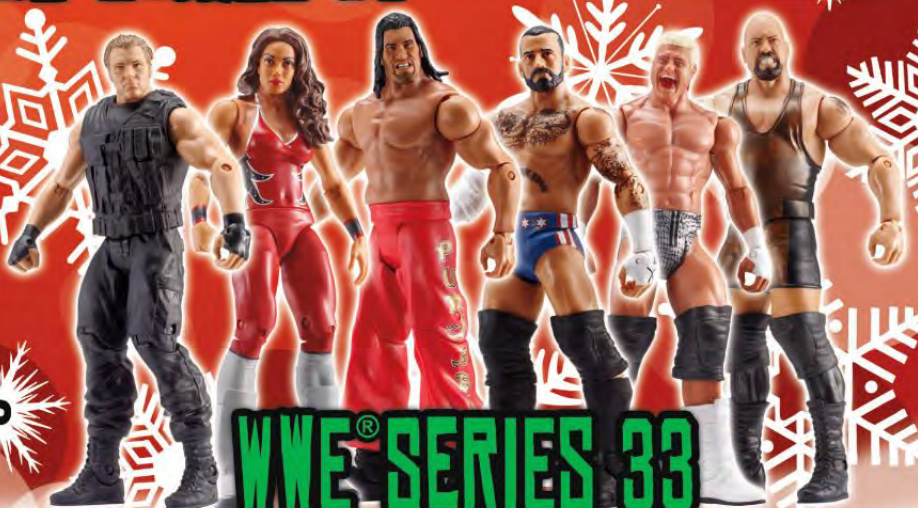
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KNOWLEDGE

# NUTRITION

## 10 Big Benefits Of Water

Water, in its purest form, is the elixir of life. It sustains the body and mind, and keeps you healthy. OK, OK...Brita filter commercial over! But drinking  $H_2O$  is a big deal, and here are the 10 major paybacks you get from each glass.

### It Fights The Bulge

**1** Blood is made up of 78 percent water, so staying hydrated allows it to carry oxygen and important nutrients to different parts of the body faster, helping it to burn fat. It also contains zero calories, and makes you feel full.

### It's The Fountain of Youth

**4** Looking to Superkick Father Time in the face? Drinking water helps your skin stay moisturized, maintain elasticity, and reduce wrinkles. And it's much cheaper than all those anti-aging treatments.

### It Absorbs Nutrients

**7** Water helps break down food so your body can absorb its nutrients, and pass through your body quicker. Want to improve digestion? Try a 16-ounce glass of  $H_2O$  before a meal and an eight-ounce glass afterward.

### It Keeps You Focused

**8** Dehydration kicks in when just two percent of your total body's fluid is lost. And with it goes your ability to focus. Since the brain is three-fourths water, make sure you keep it operating at a high level with plenty of aqua.

### It Makes You Stronger

**2** A lubricant for joints, water helps these surfaces move efficiently and with minimal friction. Without it, movement becomes extremely stiff and painful. Athletes especially need seven to 10 ounces of water every 20 minutes while training.

### It Aids You Out

**5** Lungs must be moist and pliant with humid air to facilitate each breath, and, without enough water, breathing will eventually feel stilted and raw. Sixty-four ounces is a blanket amount to drink each day, but more is needed if you're breathing dry air.

### It's An Airbag For Your Body

**3** The brain, eyes, and spinal cord all depend on a protective layer of water to ward against shock and trauma. It also helps guard against all the chemical functions happening close by—a very important reason to stay replenished!



### It's Cool

**6** Drinking water regulates the temperature of our bodies through perspiration, which alternately heats, or cools the body down as needed.



**WWE Superstars and Divas really know how to hydrate! The roster alone goes through more than 1,000 cases of water a month! That's about 288,000 bottles a year!**

### It Flushes You Out

**9** Your kidneys (made of 79 percent water!) remove waste from the blood, eliminate lethal substances in urine, and flush out/filter toxins sent from the liver. And they're totally dependent on water to function. Drink that information down!

### It Fixes Your 'Do

**10** Not only will drinking water leave your hair feeling fuller and healthier, but also washing and rinsing your hair two to three times a week with cool water closes cuticles, prevents damage and strengthens each strand of your mane.

### WHO'S THIRSTY?

Dehydration can be seriously dangerous! So take care of yourself and sip on these six warning signs.



You'll just be super-thirsty, but it's nothing a quick drink of water won't cure!



Ignoring the first warning signs will leave you with a tsunami-sized headache.



You've lost at least 10 percent of your fluid, and your skin will start to dry out.



Your eyes will start sinking in, and, at this point, it's not smart to ingest water too quickly.



Racing heart, vomiting. Your cells are desperate for fluid, and start taking it from your blood.



Your vitals will start to slow down, until they eventually dry out and turn off completely.







## &gt; KNOWLEDGE

## TWWEET US



## Ask R-Truth...

@RonKillings

The self-professed **Suntanned Superman** truthfully answers your Twitter questions about his biggest risks in the ring, his favorite pay-per-view in history, and the whereabouts of his old friend, Little Jimmy.

@ What is R-Truth's worst past fashion mistake?

**Brent O.; Taylor, AL**

✦ The white coat I used to wear to the ring all the time. I can't stand to look at myself in it anymore. I didn't even keep it!

@ What is the biggest risk that you've ever taken in the ring?

**Pricher G.; Minot, ND**

✦ Any time that I dive over the top rope and do a front flip with no hands is a risk. I'm so used to doing it, but I'm still gambling with my body, and remember to send up a little prayer each time I perform it.

@ Which pay-per-view has been your favorite to ever participate in?

**Frank L.; Chatsworth, IL**

✦ *Capitol Punishment 2011*, because it felt like it was my show. I was up against John Cena for the WWE Title so it was one of the biggest moments of my career. All eyes were finally on me and I made sure to give the audience something worth watching.

@ What do you think will be R-Truth's legacy, when all is said and done?

**Channing E.; Juneau, AK**

✦ That I was the most rappingest, dancingest, most entertaining thing that has ever stepped between the ropes. If you don't think so now, just remember that my career is far from over!

@ Who would win in a twerking contest, R-Truth or Miley Cyrus?

**Hamilton D.; Sparks, NV**

✦ Definitely Miley Cyrus, and I'm going to officially announce to everyone today that I am a huge fan! I dig her style.

@ How excited were you to stand front-and-center for this year's *Hell In A Cell* poster?

**Dashel T.; Del Ray Beach, FL**

✦ Excited doesn't explain it. I was overwhelmed, grateful, proud and beyond honored. I had a blast at the shoot, and the poster gives a sneak peek at what's in the future for R-Truth. Trust me, you have no idea!

@ Being from North Carolina, what is your favorite part of the Carolina wrestling tradition?

**Trina K.; Dodd City, TX**

✦ That we've made it. People know that there are some stars and real talent coming up out of the Carolinas, and I'm honored to be part of it—and so proud of where I'm from. Raise up!

@ You're very energetic in the ring, but which moves, if any, are getting harder with age?

**Gabe H.; Avondale, LA**

✦ None. At least not yet. It all comes naturally to me, and it's almost like muscle memory when I'm out there now. In a way, it's easier than before. I'm in as great a shape as I've always been, and now, I've got the experience to back it up.

@ What is Little Jimmy doing these days?

**Eric W.; Mentor, OH**

✦ Man, that kid's back with his mom! I needed a break from him, we weren't getting along too well. Good riddance if you ask me!



## PERFORMANCE CENTER DEBUT!

A brand-new training facility for the current and future Superstars and Divas of WWE!



@VinceMcMahon

The entry to @WWE goes through our new @WWEPeformCtr. Athletes from all walks of life are welcome to try out.



@RealSummerWWE

Spent all day at the @WWE PerformCtr! That place is amazing! Everything you need is right there for you. #wwe #future #NXT



@LaRosaMendes

This is such a huge day for all of us! The grand opening of the Performance center in Orlando is today! On my way there right now #WWEPC



@TripleH

@WWEPeformCtr sneaking in a workout before the grand opening. #WWEPC #futureiswhatyoumakeit



@TitusONeilWWE

BIG DAY in Orlando, FLA 2Day, Why? New Ride at Disney Opening? Hell no. New @WWE Performance Center Grand Opening? HELL YES!



## GOT A BURNING QUESTION?

→ In the coming months we'll be soliciting Twitter questions for Kofi Kingston, Fandango and Sin Cara. Fire off your best queries on any subject to: @WWE Magazine. Who knows, if your questions are interesting enough, one of them just might make it into *WWE Magazine*! And you thought the Web was just for Best of Vines.







> KNOWLEDGE

# BODY SHOP

## The Tactical Workout

No one will see you coming—not the gym, the park or the backstage area with this go-anywhere, functional circuit, demonstrated by **Seth Rollins**.



✖ When you're the member of a trio that spends the majority of its time lurking in the bowels of arenas the way **Seth Rollins** does, you need to be ready, willing and able to sneak in a workout wherever you can. This circuit will give you a total body blast, and can be performed anywhere. "By sequencing tough body-weight movements together, you improve strength, kick start your heart rate and build endurance," says trainer Adam Copeland—[peakperformancenyc.com](http://peakperformancenyc.com). "This workout can be done anywhere. All you need is some serious motivation." Perform the routine, following up with a brisk, 10-minute run. Ready? Go!



***“Functionality, combining speed and strength, is the name of the game. I never wanted to be the biggest guy; I just want to be great at everything. I train CrossFit because it’s the closest I get in the gym to the experience of being in the ring.” –Seth Rollins***

BY **MAX BAKKE**  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **JASON TANAKA BLANEY**

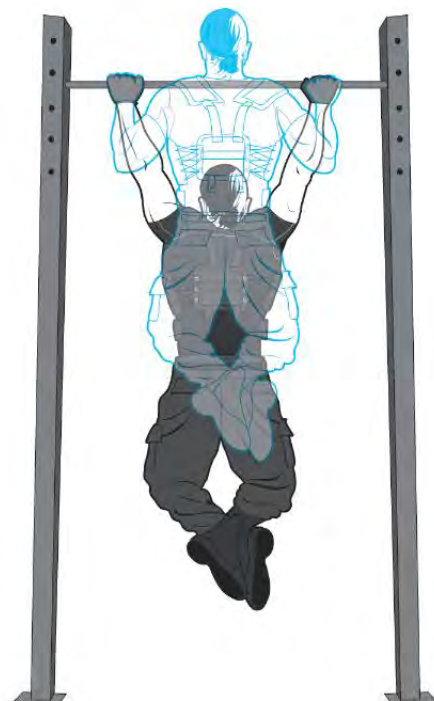
**1**



**SQUAT JUMPS** **Four sets of 10-15 reps**

Stand tall with your feet about shoulder-width apart. Then, enter into a squat. Reverse the motion by extending your hips and knees explosively and performing a jump as high as you can. Land softly on the balls of your feet and drop down into another squat.

**2**



**PULL-UPS** **Four sets of 10-15 reps**

Grab a bar with a shoulder-width grip, palms facing out. Hang from the bar and cross your ankles behind you. Start the movement by pulling your body up and bringing your chest to the bar. Reverse the motion by lowering yourself under control back to the start.

**3**



**DIVE-BOMBER PUSH-UPS**  
**Four sets of 10-15 reps**

Begin in a push-up position with hips elevated and hands under your shoulders. Lower your chest to the floor, keeping your hips elevated slightly. Then, reverse the motion until you are back at the start.

**4**



**KNEE-DRIVE SIT-UPS**  
**Four Sets of 15-20 reps**

Lie on your back with your legs straight out in front, and extend your arms over your head. Then, simultaneously bring one knee to your chest and point toward your feet. Alternate legs for each rep.

**BEAT THE NUMBERS GAME**

Test your fitness level with this grueling triple-threat of numerical physical challenges.



**10**  
**CHEST DIPS**



**10**  
**CHIN-UPS OR PULL-UPS**



**3** Repetitions  
at 1.5 times  
your body  
weight.  
**BACK SQUAT & DEADLIFT**



# Looking Fly

With colorful gear and a matching personality, **Rosa Mendes** spreads her wings about WWE Hall of Famer **Koko B. Ware**, her relationship deal-breakers, and which Diva she has all figured out.



**1. So Koko B. Ware had Frankie, what would your pet sidekick be?**

A pug! I used to have one, and he was like a Diva himself. Totally spoiled—and he would walk with his head and chin up high. Just like me.

**2. Koko called his famous move “The Bird.” What would your signature dance be called?**

I’d call my salsa “Rosa’s Tango of Terror.” Everyone would be distracted by how sexy it was, and then WHAM! I’d take them by surprise.

**3. What’s one thing that guys need to B. Ware of with Rosa?**

Me catching them in a lie! Liars are cowards, and I’m all about honesty. If I’m more fearless than my man, then he’s got no business in my world.

**4. Will we ever catch you singing your own entrance music?**

Not unless I wanted to lose all my followers and irritate everyone else. Rosa Mendes has no business singing anywhere around a ring!

**5. What character would you love to play if you were a telenova star?**

Someone who has a broken heart. I would show all the most emotional and aggressive layers that I’m capable of portraying.

**6. Is Rosa a romantic?**

Absolutely, yes. I love the long walks, and quiet dinners. I can also be very romantic in return. But only when it’s least expected.

**7. What’s one fashion trend for guys that really just needs to go?**

Skinny jeans! It’s a turn-off no matter who you are. Most guys backstage know not to wear them around me, because I’d call them out!

**8. Is it hard to wrestle in heels?**

It’s not easy to do anything in heels, especially navigating around the ring. Not every girl would be able to pull it off, and that’s why not every girl can be a WWE Diva.

**9. Who is your favorite person to follow on Twitter?**

Paul Heyman! He’s the most talented in every single aspect of this business. I’d love to be a manager like him and be able to capture the WWE Universe in the same ways.

**10. Tell us what you think is the key to the perfect selfie?**

Stare at the camera while thinking about something you love, so everyone can see desire and passion in your eyes instead of a blank stare.

**11. Who is the most competitive Diva in the ring?**

AJ Lee. I realize that she’s getting all the other girls distracted with insults and has them fighting with each other, so she can keep her title. I’m on to her!

**12. Finish this sentence: Rosa will go down in WWE history as the Diva who \_\_\_\_\_.**

Who captured people’s hearts! If I haven’t yet, I will soon.

► KNOWLEDGE

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF WWE MAGAZINE

# DIVA OF THE MONTH







**“Skinny jeans are a turn-off, no matter who you are. If a man’s going to wear skinny jeans around me, he’s going to have to be ready for me to call him out.”**  
**—Rosa Mendes**

## DECEMBER IN WWE

↓ Turn here first to find out when the Superstars will be in your town next!\*

1		17	Raw, Austin, TX; 7:00pm
2	Raw, Oklahoma City; 6:30pm	18	SmackDown, San Antonio, TX; 7:00pm
3	SmackDown, Tulsa, OK; 7:00pm	19	SmackDown, Corpus Christi; 7:00pm
4	Raw 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary box set on sale now!	20	
5		21	
6	WWE Live Event, Stockton, CA; 7:30pm	22	
7	WWE Live Event, Sacramento, CA; 7:30pm WWE Live Event, Vancouver, CAN; 7:30pm	23	
8	WWE Live Event, Spokane, WA; 5:00pm WWE Live Event, Yakima, WA; 5:00pm	24	Christmas Eve Survivor Series 2012 DVD in stores today!
9	Raw, Seattle, WA; 4:30pm	25	Christmas
10	SmackDown, Portland, OR; 7:00pm	26	WWE Live Event, New York, NY; 7:30pm WWE Live Event, Chicago, IL; 7:30pm
11	Tribute To The Troops, Ft. Lewis; 7:30pm	27	WWE Live Event, Hartford, CT; 7:30pm WWE Live Event, Indianapolis, IN; 7:30pm
12		28	WWE Live Event, Newark, NJ; 7:30pm WWE Live Event, Detroit, MI; 7:30pm
13		29	WWE Live Event, Hershey, PA; 7:30pm SmackDown, Washington, DC; 7:00pm
14		30	Raw, Richmond, VA; 7:30pm WWE Live Event, Toronto, ON; 7:30pm
15	WWE TLC, Houston, TX; 6:30pm	31	New Year's Eve Best WWE PPV's DVD on sale today!
16	Raw, Dallas, TX; 7:00pm		



FOR MORE OF THE RAVISHING ROSA MENDES:  
Visit [WWE.COM/MAGAZINE/DIVA-OF-MONTH](http://WWE.COM/MAGAZINE/DIVA-OF-MONTH)

\*All show times are regional and subject to change





# WWE QUIZ

## What Do You Know About... WWE and Gifts?

WWE has given us decades of entertainment, nonstop action and hours of hilarity. But how much do you know about what the Superstars have given each other? Here we test you about the well-meaning—and not so well-meaning—gift exchanges in WWE. Here we go!

### "I CHOO-CHOO CHOOSE YOU"

**1** Earlier this year, Kaitlyn received a handful of gifts from an alleged secret admirer who was eventually revealed as a joke. Correctly fill in the blanks of the first charming and passionate love letter that she received.

You've come so far **A** \_\_\_\_\_, and every step

of the way, I've fallen in love with

you **B** \_\_\_\_\_. I wish I could tell

you **C** \_\_\_\_\_ no matter what **D** \_\_\_\_\_



says, always know that there's someone

out there that thinks you're **E** \_\_\_\_\_.

- |                      |                      |                     |                    |                     |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>A</b> In the ring | <b>B</b> Irrevocably | <b>C</b> Via Skype  | <b>D</b> Anyone    | <b>E</b> Incredible |
| This past year       | Kind of              | And the whole world | Everyone backstage | Worthy of me        |
| So fast              | Even more            | Over and over       | The WWE Universe   | Beautiful           |
| Since you've started | To my great dismay   | In person           | The Chairman       | Intimidating        |

**2** To thank his stablemates in The Nation of Domination, The Rock gave Kama, Mark Henry and D'Lo gold Rolexes, but what did he give Faarooq?



- |                                  |
|----------------------------------|
| <b>A</b> An Armani suit          |
| <b>B</b> A rare Picasso painting |
| <b>C</b> A new car               |
| <b>D</b> A picture of The Rock   |



**3** In an effort to help Kane channel his negative energy in a more positive way, which infamous children's game did Rob Van Dam once give to The Big Red Monster?

**?** \_\_\_\_\_

**4** Santa Claus granted Hornswoggle his biggest wish on SmackDown in 2011, which was finally giving him the ability to talk. How did Kris Kringle end up pulling it off?



- |  |
|--|
| <b>A</b> Waving his magic wand                                   |
| <b>B</b> Making Hornswoggle click his heels together three times |
| <b>C</b> Powerbombing him through a table                        |
| <b>D</b> Giving him a hug  |



5

**TRUE OR FALSE?**

Zack Ryder and Rosa Mendes celebrated Christmas together on ECW, both getting Rosa the same gift of lacy red lingerie.



?

6

Which two NASCAR drivers hosted Raw when Randy Orton was gifted with a racecar on Raw in 2009?



?

7

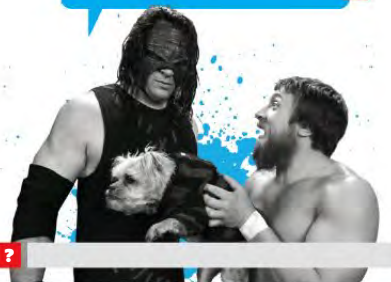
In 2012, Daniel Bryan surprised his tag team partner Kane with a puppy. What was Kane's fervent response?

**A** "THANKS, I'M STARVING!"

**B** "THANKS, I'VE ALWAYS WANTED A DOG."

**C** "TAKE IT BACK, I HATE CHRISTMAS!"

**D** "WHAT WOULD I DO WITH A DOG?"



?



8

Hoping to embarrass The People's Champion, what did Vickie Guerrero and an unbleached Dolph Ziggler give The Rock as a special gift during the 5/2/11 edition of Raw?

?

9

Kurt Angle thanked would-be friends Stone Cold Steve Austin and Mr. McMahon for his well-thought-out gift of a cowboy hat by giving them what iconic symbol of the Old West?

**A** Badges

**B** Gun Belt

**C** Whips

**D** Spurs



10

**UNSCRAMBLE ME!** Big Show left a series of presents for Undertaker, and when The Deadman opened one of the boxes, which infamous wrestling manager popped out?

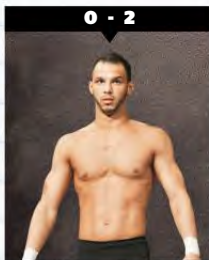
# REBTHOR VOLE

## RATING SCALE

### TIME'S UP!

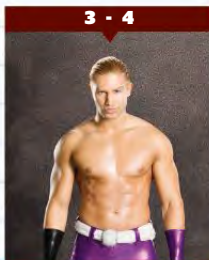
How'd you do? Was your effort worth the equivalent of a sweet new Escalade or a snake at a wedding reception? Match your responses to the correct answers below to see where you rank in terms of WWE Universe intelligence.

0 - 2



**LOCAL COMPETITOR**

3 - 4



**NXT ROOKIE**

5 - 7



**TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS**

8 - 9



**UNITED STATES CHAMPION**

10



**WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION**

**ANSWERS**

1. A. THIS PAST YEAR, B. EVEN MORE, C. IN PERSON, D. ANYONE, E. BEAUTIFUL, 2. D, 3. HUNGARY HUNGARY HIPPOS, 4. D, 5. TRUE, 6. KYLE BUSCH & JOEY LOGANO, 7. A, 8. MAE YOUNG, 9. A, 10. BROTHER LOVE





# YOU'RE WELCOME:

WWE'S

25

## GREATEST GIFTS TO THE WORLD!

*Whether WWE has invented, revolutionized, or improved upon each of these things, we think you'll agree that the world at large—pop culture, sports and beyond—wouldn't be the same without WWE.*



### 25 Andre the Giant

Known as the Eighth Wonder of the World, Andre's size and appearance made him a spectacle that fans all across the globe just couldn't get enough of. The world of sports is filled with big men, but none can match Andre's physicality, charm, and legacy. He told great stories in the ring, and there will never be another who can stand toe-to-toe with him.

### 24 Men's Fashion

No one can—or should—rock jean shorts like John Cena or Stone Cold. Throughout history we've seen men in tights, feather boas, bodysuits, and trunks that seemed a little too close for comfort. And those fashion statements make every bit of in-ring and entrance action better. Now what other sport with their predictable uniforms can do that?

### 23 TV's Own Iron Man

*Raw* is the longest-running weekly episodic television program in the U.S., boasting more than 1,000 episodes and counting, with *SmackDown* coming in at No. 2. Not only is it nearly impossible for any other program ever to catch up, but also the unmatched success of WWE TV proves its superiority both in content and ratings. And we're just getting started.



### 22 Entrance Music

WWE revolutionized what it means to make a big entrance, and the chosen music is as important as in-ring ability. The pop-cultural phenomena of making a statement with your arrival through your music lives and thrives because of how our Superstars do it, giving pro athletes a new standard of taking the field.

### 21 Lucha Masks

These masks, a huge part of Mexican wrestling tradition, have hurricanrana'd their way into pop-culture because of their colorful and ornate designs. Fans were handed out masks at Angel Stadium in 2011, and the Arizona Diamondbacks even have their own luchador mascot today, but, no offense, he's no Sin Cara.

### 20 Third-Generation Superstars

Occasionally a sports sensation's son will make waves in college or the pros, like a Ken Griffey Jr. or a Peyton/Eli Manning. Only in WWE do three generations of athletes all make significant impact, like the Hennigs, the Ortons, the Harts and the Anoa'is. It's clear that, in WWE, wrestling ability is a genetic trait like no other sport.

### 19 The Streak

Joe DiMaggio got a hit in 56 straight games; the UCLA Bruins strung together 88 wins in a row, but neither of those



18.

two feats can match Undertaker's staggering 21-0 *WrestleMania* streak. Why? Because when DiMaggio was trying to hit that baseball, the baseball wasn't trying to hit him back!

### 18 The Bodyslam

A basic wrestling maneuver is now the de-facto way to describe big hits, tackles and other violent collisions in the sports world. It doesn't even have to be sports, either. "Bodyslams" are all over the world, from political races, to Twitter spats as a way to signify that someone was demolished by an opponent.

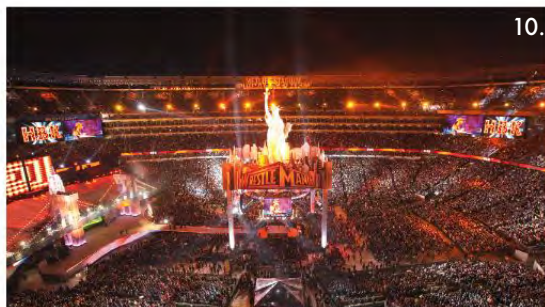
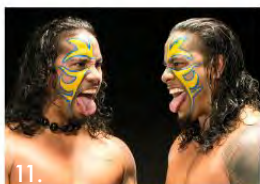
### 17 Public Contracts/Performance Reviews

The gift here is a cautionary tale, of sorts. Thankfully, few of us have ever had to suffer the indignity of being publicly fired in front of thousands of people. But in WWE, the powers that be let you see how the sausage is made, with public negotiations and performance reviews that typically result in more than a few broken chairs and desks.

### 16 U-S-A! U-S-A!

Capitalizing on the WWE Universe's collective love of chanting, and love of America, "Hacksaw" Jim Duggan began leading crowds with cries of





"U-S-A!" early in his career. It caught on like wildfire, and it's now a common way for the Universe to express their patriotism in the most positive way.

### 15 Easy-to-Learn Dance Moves

It's a fear everyone knows all too well—getting pushed inside a dance circle at a party. But you can elude embarrassment by busting out some dance moves you've learned from WWE stars like Brodus Clay, Tensai, and Rikishi. Even moves like John Cena's "You can't see me" have found a way onto red carpets and weddings alike!

### 14 Tribute to the Troops

It's important to honor the servicemen and servicewomen who fight for freedom everyday. Since 2003, WWE has hosted a special event every December. It's a great reminder of the sacrifices paid by the Armed Forces, and a great way to show appreciation for their service.

### 13 T-Shirt Modifications

Got an oversized T-shirt? What about one that doesn't stand out in a crowd? Take a cue from WWE Superstars and Divas and modify the gear to something that's more you. Where do you think Lady Gaga got her style tips from?

### 12 Occupational Superiority

Did you ever wonder what would happen if a rock star fought a ballroom dancer? What if a plumber squared off with a hockey player? With the likes of Chris Jericho vs. Fandango or T.L. Hopper vs. The Goon making a mark in WWE, you won't have to wonder what profession would reign supreme the next time this bar debate breaks out.

### 11 Face-painting

State fairs and company picnics were forever changed when the likes of Demolition, The Road Warriors and The Ultimate Warrior first stepped onto TV with some of the coolest face-paint designs. The days of cute stars and whiskers were long gone as fair-goers can now ask for designs like The Usos's.

### 10 The Suffix "Mania"

Some trends can captivate an audience to the point of insanity, earning the title of "Mania." Give thanks to WWE Hall of Famer Howard Finkel, who suggested naming a WWE mega event "*WrestleMania*" because, much like when The Beatles first came to America (and, ahem, coined the term "Beatlemania"), it would be an event that would forever become part of pop culture.

### 9 Revenge On The Boss

In a Stunner heard around the world, Stone Cold Steve Austin shocked the WWE Universe—and The Chairman—when he executed his vicious finisher on his boss, Mr. McMahon, living out the fantasy of disgruntled employees everywhere. While it probably isn't the last time we'll see that type of revenge in the ring, WWE remains the only place where payback can be served up that cold.

### 8 Pay-Per-View

True, WWE didn't exactly invent pay-per-view, but we definitely revolutionized it into the media entity it is today, thanks to innovations such as *WrestleMania*. Fact: WWE even owns the domain name [payperview.com](http://payperview.com).

### 7 The Attitude Era

Yeah, yeah, we hear you, Internet. "The Attitude Era was the greatest time in wrestling history and WWE will never recreate it..." But, that's not what we're talking about. We're talking about the original "too

hot for TV" antics of Val Venis, DX and the like that ensure we'll never be fazed by something like Miley Cyrus twerking a bear.

### 6 Good Tattoos

CM Punk's knuckles. Rey Mysterio's chest. The Rock's shoulder. WWE Superstars go out of their ways to brand themselves with only the most sacred ink, leaving us to question many of the tattoo choices made by celebrities.

### 5 Women's Athletics

The Divas have trained for years to perfect their craft, and fought tooth and nail to climb the ladder of success, all the while pushing aside the notion of being mere arm accessories the Superstars. Other women's leagues may contain strong athletes who excel at their sport, but none of them entertain as many people as our Divas.

### 4 Smackdown

Not the show—although, that's pretty awesome, too. We're talking about the word "smackdown," which was, in fact, pioneered by The Rock, popularized by the WWE Universe, and then added into *Merriam Webster's Dictionary* in 2007. Now it's used on everything from political campaigns to post-game interviews.

### 3 Villains

Nowadays, jerks are celebrated. Look at the likes of Kanye West, Ndamukong Suh and Anthony Weiner. They're some of the most popular figures in their respected fields. And why? Because they're all world-class buttrags. So, maybe we should apologize for this one. Had it not been for such nefarious Superstars as Roddy Piper, Triple H and Sgt. Slaughter, being bad might never have been cool.

### 2 The WWE Title

Forget the Lombardi Trophy. Forget the Stanley Cup. Forget the...thing that makes you best at soccer. The WWE and World Heavyweight Championships vare the best icons in all of entertainment. Maybe that's why so many pro-athletes—such as the Dallas Mavericks and Green Bay Packers—turn to our gold to represent their most ripping victories.

### 1 God's Gift To Wrestling

The Show-stopper. Mr. *WrestleMania*. The Heartbreak Kid. Shawn Michaels!







# GOD'S GIFT TO WRESTLING

It's hard to remain humble when you're the best wrestler of all time. But if you're not—and, unless your name is Shawn Michaels, you're not—there's a lot you can learn on your way toward reaching the bar he's set. In fact, everything you need to learn about wrestling, you can learn from The Heartbreak Kid.

**As Told To Matt Christensen**





**a. Learn What It Means To Fight An Uphill Battle**

*Shawn Michaels Debuts 10/16/84*

"I'm always slightly amused by how people talk about how so-and-so 'isn't big enough.' And how someone is fighting an uphill battle because of his size. You don't know the first thing about an uphill battle. Try doing it in 1994 and 1995, even earlier than that. Try doing it back when there hadn't been—with all due respect—*me* complaining about how size shouldn't matter. Now there's a list of guys as long as my arm who complain about getting looked over. When I got here, I didn't have a name. I didn't have a legacy. I didn't have a famous family. And there was only one guy who was gonna kick down the door and piss and moan until—quite frankly, and thankfully—the old man finally relented. Ha ha."



**d. Learn How To Make An Entrance**

*Shawn Michaels Enters On A Zipline WrestleMania XII*

"I just knew that I was getting a special entrance. I hadn't really given it much thought. I'd heard 'zipline' before, but I'm thinking, 'Maybe from the top of the ramp?' Not the top of the building. It was huge. At the time, I didn't have the ability to see the enormity of it. And I think that was a good thing. That worked to my advantage. It was a healthy attitude to have. I've put a fair amount of pressure on myself on my own anyway. Had I known things would get that big, it would've gotten much more difficult to do. I remember coming to the building and (The Chairman) telling me the idea. He said, 'Don't worry about it, I've already done it.' It wasn't until I got up there and I realized how high it was, but by that time it was too late."



**e. Learn How To Talk**

*Shawn Michaels Tells WWE: 'I Lost My Smile' 1997*

"It's about not having one specific style, and wanting to be well-rounded. I mean, come on—I've cried a lot on TV. I get that it's wrestling, and we're supposed to be 'tough.' And I know there are guys out there who've made a lot more money than I have, and all they did was grunt, be angry all the time and punch and kick. And God bless them. But I just wanted to be more well-rounded, and that choice suited me well. That's part of the reason I can come back and there's still a connection with the fans. And the same way I chuckle with and at the guy who says he can't make it because he's too small. I also chuckle at the notion of a 'pipe bomb' being something new. Back in 1994, 1995 and 1996, those were the original 'pipe bombs.' That's one of the things we were pushing for back then—bringing more of the reality of the situation to the forefront. I used to say stuff and The Chairman had no idea what was coming out. It's just different now. We were also privately owned then. That's why we just got yelled at, not fired." [Laughs.]



**b. Learn What It Means To Be A Tag Team Specialist**

*Shawn Michaels Teams With Marty Jannetty 1985-1991*

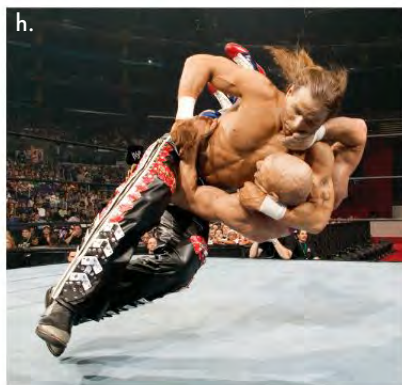
"There's always an 'I' to the future for tag teams now. As The Rockers, Marty and I never thought past the team. Marty and I were very content and focused on being the best tag team in WWE. We didn't worry about being similar. Believe it or not, and people do find it hard to believe, there wasn't really any focus on individuality with Marty and me. That's why they called us 'tag team specialists.' That's really what we were."

**c. Learn How To Break Up With Someone**

*Shawn Michaels Turns on Marty Jannetty 12/2/91*

"Any tag team that breaks up, there's always one of them who's focused on bigger things. Breaking up is certainly not a wise choice if you don't have aspirations past the tag team, because you don't know how it's gonna pan out. It's a sink-or-swim scenario. There have been plenty of people who've done it and haven't fared well. So, if you're gonna go, you've gotta go all-in. Failure can't be an option."





#### f. Learn To Think Outside The Box

Shawn Michaels vs. Mankind  
*In Your House 10: Mind Games*

"Mick and I wanted that match to be something different. We had no background together. We didn't know if we were going to have chemistry. Both of us wanted to make a WWE Championship Match that wasn't typical of the business at the time. Mankind was an opponent with a rugged style that Shawn Michaels had never faced before. Had we not tried to add those extra elements, it wouldn't have felt special. I wasn't a fan of having a definite 'style.' I get that there are different styles, and some guys do things a certain way but, as a fan, I don't prefer one over another. So, throughout my whole career, it always made sense to go out and try to mix things up. One of the easiest ways to keep people from saying, 'It's the same old thing,' is to not continually do the same thing."

#### g. Learn How To Fight Through The Pain

Shawn Michaels vs. Stone Cold Steve Austin  
*WrestleMania XIV*

"I knew there was going to be an end, regardless of the outcome. You know it's just a matter of time until it's all over. It's a rather uncomfortable 30 to 40 minutes, but you endure knowing that it'll eventually be over. It may not have ended with a grin on my face—that kind of pain is not an overwhelmingly joyful thing to experience—but knowing it was going to come to an end eventually helped me put up with it. I'd been wrestling long enough to know the real end to the pain wasn't going to be at the end of the match. It was going to last for a couple of days. Even after that, the healing was going to be painful. The hardest part is usually the next day. The adrenaline is off, and you're just lying there motionless and in pain. It helps to know the pain is going to end eventually."

#### h. Learn To Challenge The Best

Shawn Michaels vs. Kurt Angle  
*WrestleMania 21*

"I've never been intimidated going into a match with somebody on the basis of skill. But I've been plenty intimidated as far as the expectations of the crowds. And I knew that the expectations of the Angle match were really high. That was a match people wanted to see. Kurt was really talented. He's incredibly technically sound. I needed to be able to match and enhance his technical attributes. That's not something I do on a regular basis, so there was a lot of pressure. Whether it was earned, I had a *WrestleMania* reputation. And Kurt had one, too. So if we hadn't delivered on the match, it probably would've made more news than we actually ended up doing. My *WrestleMania* matches weren't graded the same way as anyone else's. If I fall below 'good,' I'm in big trouble. Looking back, I'm very proud of that."

#### i. Learn How To Cross The Boss

Shawn Michaels vs. Mr. McMahon  
*WrestleMania 22*

"People just wanted to see me fight Mr. McMahon. He knew everything about power, money and fame. And those things interested me years ago. But now, my faith and my family are what's important, and it became hard for him to conceive that. I'm not sure Mr. McMahon's aware there is a life outside WWE. Over the years, he and I butted heads many times behind the scenes. And, honestly, I think there was a part of him that liked those confrontations. So, when I came back (in 2002), and had re-prioritized my life, I was actually sort of a 'model employee.' That's what sent him over the edge with me. The biggest upside for me was knowing I could just go out and do it. That's what happens when you take a beating from someone for such a long time. No matter how decent you are, when you can unleash all that rage, animosity and anger inside of you, you're going to let it rip."

#### j. Learn How To Take Down An Icon

Shawn Michaels vs. Hulk Hogan  
*SummerSlam 2005*

"Everybody got it, Hulk included. The insults. The Larry King spoof. The match itself. Hulk was happy with all of it, and so was I. I wasn't out there to prove anything. That match was more me trying to be what I was asked to be—which was the HBK of old, from 1997 and 1998. At the time, in 2005, that just wasn't my nature anymore, so it was a challenge. But then it just became about having fun. See, I laugh at myself all the time. Hunter makes fun of me on TV a lot, with my receding hairline and all that. It never dawned on me to get upset when the cameras stopped rolling. A lot of things in this business get blown out of proportion. The buildup with Hulk is a perfect example. One of the biggest stories that's taken on a life of its own is that I went out and purposely overexaggerated all of the moves. That's just not true. AND, it shows you how bad I got at playing the bad guy. That is how I moved in 1997, and I was asked to reach back and become that HBK from 1997. So, I did. I pulled off the gloves, and did it."

"I'm not sure Mr. McMahon's aware there's a life outside WWE. Over the years, he and I butted heads many times behind the scenes. And, honestly, there was a part of him that liked those confrontations."



“(Undertaker and I) were just two battle-worn warriors who had been going at it for a long, long time. And that match was just a great final memory to have.”



#### k. Learn That An Old Dog Can Still Have New Tricks

Shawn Michaels vs. John Cena  
WrestleMania 23

“Going in, I think the majority of the people weren’t concerned with whether John could have a good match. It was more, could he have a good match with *me*? If he did, that was going to make people believe he was for real. Toward the end of my career, I never looked at myself as a “challenger.” At that point, with my reputation as Mr. *WrestleMania*, people looked at every opponent I had on the way in, and on the way out. Specifically, how they were different. What happened in between? As an individual, I think, of course, “Can I hang with these young guys?” If I screwed up, that’d be on me. But in that bout, it was about something feeling different all around when that other guy stepped out of the ring.”

#### l. Learn How to Treat The New Guy

Shawn Michaels Wrestles The Likes Of The Spirit Squad and The Legacy 2006, 2009

“The biggest problem I had with most of them was getting them to relax! Everyone in this generation is so nice, so respectful, and I appreciate that. But, when I’m out there, you gotta treat me like dirt. Because I want you to do well. I want you to learn. One of the reasons for that attitude, for example, is Teddy’s (Ted DiBiase Jr.) dad. That’s how he was with me. He was a great teacher. He helped me along. And encouraged me to think. So that’s what I tried to do with guys like Teddy. I tried to help them be comfortable. And I tried to learn from them, too. I remember putting the ball in their court a lot, and that’s the real learning process. Being told what to do every step of the way is just following instructions. And that’s not learning.”

#### m. Learn How To Retire A Living Legend

Shawn Michaels vs. Ric Flair  
WrestleMania XXIV

“The match was more about the fact that, if Ric Flair’s last match wasn’t perfect, the weight of that disappointment would fall on my shoulders. And both he and I knew the reasons for that, which is why I take such huge pride in being the one who was in there with him. With Ric Flair, there’s a lot on the line for him in having a great match. None of it’s not real to him. If it didn’t go well, and exceed expectations, that would’ve affected his entire life. See, people think I don’t love the business as much as I should because I won’t get into the nitpicking. But if you hit the ball out of the park, you don’t have to worry about stealing or getting thrown out. That’s how I approached the match with Ric. I thought, ‘I’m just going to have to hit a home run.’”

#### n. Learn How To Go Out On Top

Shawn Michaels vs. Undertaker  
WrestleMania XXVIII

“At the time of that match, and knowing it was going to be my last, I think I might have been able to see some sort of downside in my career. But now, all these years later, I don’t. There were ups and downs, sure, but as I look back now, all I see is absolute joy and pleasure. He and I didn’t know we could get any closer after the first (*WrestleMania* match). We were wrong. We could, and we did. And it’s one of those things I’ll have forever. To me, nothing compares to putting on a good show. And I mean that with respect to this entire business. But, truthfully, the wins, the losses, the championships—none of those things are as important as putting on a good match. ‘Taker and I sat in the same locker room forever. We were just two battle-worn warriors who had been going at it for a long, long time. And that match was just a great final memory to have. Because of that, the peace of my retirement is only greater now.”

#### o. Learn How To Stay Connected With The WWE Universe

Shawn Michaels Returns To Raw 2011 (Leading up to WrestleMania XXVIII)

“The connection I feel with the WWE Universe is unbelievably special. And it’s possible because of the real-life, genuine feelings that are there. All the moments we’ve talked about, the reason they stand up over time, is because they were important to a lot of people, myself included. And that connection has grown. They know I’m not lyin’ to them. They know that all these moments were so special to me—and I know the same moments were special to them. I could’ve talked for two hours during my retirement speech and only done my best to let them know how much it meant to me that my career was so special to them. There was, and is, a genuine connection there. We leaned on each other for years. That doesn’t mean I’ll lean on them forever. That doesn’t mean they’ll lean on me forever. We can make it without each other, certainly. But at one time in my life—an important time—I needed them, and they were there. And I’ll always be grateful for that.”





GOOD  
FRIENDS

BETTER  
ENEMIES

IN WWE, **FRIENDSHIPS** EXIST BETWEEN SOME UNLIKELY PAIRINGS. AND, WHEN THEY MEET IN THE RING, THE CHEMISTRY OFTEN RESULTS IN FIVE-STAR MATCHES. BASED ON THE TITLE OF AN *IN YOUR HOUSE* PPV, MEET THE SUPERSTARS WHO MOST EMBODY THESE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIPS...

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SCOTT BRINEGAR



## DOLPH ZIGGLER &amp; ZACK RYDER

**Good Friends:**

At first glance, Ryder and Ziggler might seem like two bros, thick as thieves, whom you might spot monopolizing a shuffleboard table at your local dive. They're two young, athletic, charismatic Superstars with a lot in common—a love for the business, and a desire to succeed. And, as is often the case with locker room peers, Dolph Ziggler and Zack Ryder served as many things to one another on their roads to Superstardom. Rarely did they cross paths in the ring, but, based on their stories, they relied on each other for motivation, humor and sanity during their respective journeys to success in WWE.

**Better Enemies:**

In early 2011, Zack Ryder did something no Superstar had ever done before—he called people out on YouTube. He invented that strategy as it relates to WWE. And, in addition to targeting the brass for underusing him—despite the boisterous reaction from the WWE Universe—he called out Dolph Ziggler and the United States Championship. Ziggler fired back using the same platforms, and, truly, the adversaries revolutionized the concept of a rivalry, how it could be ignited, and what made it special.

**Watch This Match:**

Dolph Ziggler vs. Zack Ryder, WWE TLC 2011. In a bout that, thanks to the constant chanting and hype throughout the night, overshadowed just about every other contest on the card, Ryder won his first singles title (the U.S. Championship) by besting Ziggler in a match that would've made Rocky and Apollo proud. Plus, the Internet finally won!

**Zack & Dolph on ribbing each other on the road and leaving it all in the ring...**

**RYDER** “We’ve been here for about five years or so, ridin’ on the road together, and texting each other back and forth and stuff. In this business you travel with so many different people, but he’s one of the people I would consider my friend.”

**ZIGGLER** “Zack’s a nice guy. I’m very admittedly not. He’s a little younger—we call him ‘The Kid.’ He’s grad-school age at this point, but minus the diploma, so I’m clearly the brains of the outfit. I think I’m meaner to him than most others—because we are buddies. It’s a tough love, big brother thing.”

**RYDER** “Superstars are on the road more than we’re home with our friends and family. So, when you go home for those two or three days, it’s really all about who you keep in contact with. (Ziggler and I) text and keep in contact like that. Once you find that close group of people on the road, the people you ride with, or you room with, they become your family.”

**ZIGGLER** “Cars, hotel rooms, gyms—you’re living together. Unfortunately, I’ve probably spent more time with him than people I grew up with. I’ve only seen my best friends from home, like, three times a year. Honestly, I’m probably friends with maybe five percent of the locker room. Texting, talking, and all that. And I’m probably enemies with five percent, too. The rest is that gray area.”

**RYDER** “Before we got in the ring for that U.S. Championship Match, we’d never really been in the ring together at all. We escalated it on YouTube at the time, and it was so much fun. The crowd was red hot, and it was a perfect story that we wanted to tell. That was my favorite match throughout my entire career.”

**ZIGGLER** “I have better chemistry with some other Superstars, but that match was almost about everything else. Him on Twitter, him on YouTube. Us trying to stick it to each other here and there. It was so fun. And we did all that without the

matches. That made people want to see The Kid win. They didn’t care about the match—they wanted to see Zack win. They wanted to see it happen for once.”

**RYDER** “We didn’t care where we were in the card. We wanted to make sure that people remembered our match.”

**ZIGGLER** “Unless you’re the WWE Champion, you don’t get a lot of TV time. Even back when we were just a random match without any buildup, we carried the story along on the Internet. That made it special. The WWE Universe forced WWE to make that match happen. They were behind him, they hated me, and they loved it. And that’s what it’s all about.”

**RYDER** “If I have to say something nice about Ziggler, it’d be that he’s hard-working. We’ll travel the road together and get to the hotel really late, and he’ll be up really early in the morning doing his stupid empty-stomach cardio. I’m trying to sleep, and he’s working that extra bit, or going on Twitter to promote himself. He definitely wants it. For sure. I have this joke with him that if I ever get married I’ll definitely invite him to my wedding but it will have to be over Skype or FaceTime because I wouldn’t trust him around my fiancée.”

**ZIGGLER** “I always gotta bust Ryder with his on-again off-again Princess Leia, his ex-girlfriend thing, that’s always happening. It’s so

he learns his lesson. But, even with all the crap I give him, Zack is very capable in the ring. He’s very underrated around here. Unfortunately, that happens to a bunch of people. But Zack is one of the good ones. I swear, the only reason I have his ex’s (The Hoeski) number in my phone is in case there’s an emergency with Zack. I swear, that’s the only reason.”

**RYDER** “Come on, Bro!”





## REY MYSTERIO & EDDIE GUERRERO

2



### Good Friends:

They are uno and dos in terms of Mexican-American wrestlers (we'll let you decide the order), and their constant competition to outdo one another made their friendship just as explosive as their rivalries. After tearing down house after house wrestling each other in WCW, Eddie and Rey made their ways to WWE, and eventually captured the WWE Tag Team Titles—their first Championships as a duo. The team was a dream come true for both men. But the ensuing rivalry was a dream come true for the WWE Universe.

### Better Enemies:

In the spirit of friendly competition, Rey and Eddie (as Tag Champions) faced off at WrestleMania 21, with Rey coming out on top. A loss to the debuting MNM, who captured the Tag Titles, dug deeper into the rift between the two amigos. And then, in one of the most memorable, dramatic and heartbreaking incidents in WWE history, Eddie Guerrero asserted that he was, in fact, the legitimate father of Rey's son, Dominik. It was a bombshell—the fallout of which remains a standard for sinister Superstars.

### Watch This Match:

**Rey Mysterio vs. Eddie Guerrero, SummerSlam 2005**

To culminate the rivalry over Dominik, Rey and Eddie battled in a Ladder Match, complete with custody papers suspended in the atmosphere. It wasn't the most dignified of proceedings, but it was one hell of a Ladder bout, contested with all the fury of a family scorned and the dual expertise of two seasoned lucha libre legends.



**Rey on growing up just like Eddie...** “Eddie and I both had similar backgrounds. We were second-generation Superstars. We were raised the same way. We were both from border towns—him in El Paso and me in San Diego. And we'd been around the business our whole lives. All that just made it easier when we first met. We didn't know we had that many similarities until we started working together, but right away, we could tell we had chemistry. The more we worked with each other, the more we got used to each other, and the confidence built up, and the friendship got stronger.”

## AJ LEE & KAITLYN

3



### Good Friends:

Not too long ago, AJ Lee and Kaitlyn bonded between the ropes of the NXT ring. Although they were different, they shared the same wacky sense of humor, and in their own way, rebelled against fitting into the mold of a traditional Diva. Their friendship only grew stronger when they moved up to the main roster, competing as the formidable tag team, The Chickbusters. They were together in and out of the ring, and were there for each other through victory and defeat. Their friendship seemed unbreakable, that is, until AJ Lee met Daniel Bryan.

### Better Enemies:

AJ Lee became infatuated with Daniel Bryan, and lashed out against Kaitlyn for discouraging their destructive relationship. For the next few months, AJ's career became a wild and crazy ride where there was not much room for Kaitlyn—who was sure Lee's mind had snapped. When AJ crash-landed next to Dolph Ziggler and Big E Langston, there was only animosity left between the two prior partners. After AJ humiliated Kaitlyn by manipulating her with a secret admirer, there is probably nothing that could ever bring these two together again.

### Watch this Match:

**Kaitlyn vs. AJ Lee, WWE Payback 2013**

After weeks of emotional and mental torment, Kaitlyn finally fell to her former bestie and relinquished both her first Divas Championship and her pride.



**Kaitlyn on AJ laughing at her in the locker room...** “AJ was the leader when I got down to FCW, and we instantly bonded over a joke I made in the girls' locker room. She was the only one who laughed, and I knew right away that we would be friends. We went through the whole experience of NXT together, both of us not really knowing what we were doing, but trying to learn as much as we could. It brought us closer than I ever expected. Usually AJ and I are really good at keeping our business in the ring, but our blowup this summer did get a little awkward at times.”



4

## THE MIZ & JOHN MORRISON

### Good Friends:

Miz and JoMo embraced their newfound tag team partnership and realized they share an affinity for partying and ripping on the less flashy tag teams on ECW and SmackDown. The bulk of those insults came on their WWE.com series, "The Dirt Sheet," where the so-called "winners" would talk about their nightlife and mock supposed "losers." The series created a host of rivals for the duo, such as Cryme Tyme and The Colóns, but they managed to overcome most challenges, twice winning the Tag Championships.



**Miz on keeping in touch with John...** "John and I always knew how to make each other look good. It's just that chemistry you don't find too many times in your life. 'The Dirt Sheet' one of those situations where we saw an opportunity and we took it. We got as high as we could go, but we needed to separate. So it was perfect timing. Whenever we could get in the ring, we created memorable moments. I remember the crowd calling me 'husky' because John would say I was fat—but compared to John, everyone is fat...we keep in touch all the time. I text him probably every week."

### Better Enemies:

The 2009 WWE draft sent John Morrison to SmackDown and Miz to Raw, splitting the former WWE Tag Team Champions known for tormenting ECW with their annoying sense of humor. The sudden breakup was the perfect opportunity for The Awesome One to leave the mark he so desperately wanted, as he attacked his BFF and sent a clear message that Mondays were now his territory. The two battled whenever Raw and SmackDown interacted, with both refusing to be the shadow to the other's spotlight.

### Watch This Match:

**The Miz vs. John Morrison, Raw, 1/3/11**  
The Miz's "must-see" WWE Championship reign met one of its biggest challengers on the first Raw of 2011 in a Falls Count Anywhere Match, as the former bros battled with everything but the kitchen sink.



5

## TRIPLE H & SHAWN MICHAELS

### Good Friends:

They were the anti-heroes. Shawn Michaels and Triple H were two Superstars who didn't care about pushing limits, breaking boundaries, and telling everyone—even The Chairman—to suck it. The antics, the incredible athleticism, and genuine brotherhood all contributed to the success of DX, and the careers of both HBK and The Game. No two Superstars in history have the chemistry, history, and love for the business like Triple H and Shawn Michaels. Together, they brought down the house, but apart...



**Shawn on trusting any opponent...** "I guess, at the end of the day, the word it boils down to is 'trust.' It has nothing to do with being buddies in or outside the ring. It just has to do with trust. Trust in his ability. Trust in his execution. Trust in his timing. When two guys go into it with the exact same goal, it's just a better product. That goes back to trust. 'Taker and I weren't, like, best friends. Neither were me and Mick Foley. Me and Mick barely knew each other. But there was always complete and total trust. We were always out for the same thing, which was to put on a great match.'"

### Better Enemies:

For Triple H, Michaels's 18-month absence from WWE did not make the heart grow fonder. After appearing to make amends with his old buddy, The Game took HBK by surprise when he dropped him with a devastating Pedigree in front of the WWE Universe. When they agreed to a match at The Biggest Party of the Summer, their unsanctioned Street Fight set the stage for a rivalry that would last several years. There is a fine line between love and hate, and we saw Triple H and Shawn Michaels walking tall on both sides of it.

### Watch This Match:

**Shawn Michaels vs. Triple H, SummerSlam 2002**  
The sequence of Sweet Chin Music to Pedigree, to Jack Knife Roll up, to sledgehammer left Michaels on stretcher, and Triple H as the rivalry's temporary victor in this Street Fight.





## FINLAY & WILLIAM REGAL

6

### Good Friends:

Sometimes the person you hate the most is the one you're most similar to. That was the case for Finlay and William Regal. The brawlers shared a hard-nosed in-ring style and were considered two of the most respected Superstars in sports-entertainment history. After their bitter WCW rivalry, Finlay and Regal found a mutual respect. Their fights were no longer about an Irish-English rivalry; they were about bringing out the absolute best in each other, even if that meant leaving the ring with a black eye or two.

### Better Enemies:

When Finlay came across the pond, he made English Superstar William Regal—then-Lord Steve Regal, in WCW—his first target, hoping to get retribution in the name of his home Ireland. What followed were some of the most brutal battles—not matchups—ever contested in WCW. It was good, old-fashioned fighting, something both Superstars cherished. They thrived against each other, with Finlay breaking Regal's nose and Regal throwing The Belfast Bruiser through a car window. Years after their trail-blazing fights, these Superstars are still feeling each other's punches.

### Watch This Match:

**Finlay vs. William Regal; Parking Lot Brawl, 4/29/96, WCW Nitro**  
Finlay and Regal were a junkyard owner's dream, as they bashed each other through car windshields and dropped elbows on Ford hoods in a Parking Lot Brawl that saw plenty of automobiles destroyed.



### William on embarrassing himself upon first meeting Finlay...

"He was the person I idolized during my teen years before I started wrestling. I was 18 when we first got in the ring. He was such a top star in Britain that he didn't have to wrestle me. The first time I met him actually was at a wedding. I tried to give him a certain type of 'wrestler's handshake.' He just looked at me like I dropped out of a dog's backside. That taught me a lesson. ... We've done things to each other that are just ridiculous. The bond came from the fact that we were both from that world. There's a mutual respect."

## DANIEL BRYAN & KANE

7

### Good Friends:

Daniel Bryan and Kane weren't supposed to make it work. Their partnership was meant to be more of a Band-Aid to repair their obvious anger issues. When rival teams would single out Bryan as the "weak-link" in the team, hoping to drive a wedge between them, Kane went to bat for his bearded bud, insisting their losses were the team's burden. That support re-energized the tag team division, but when their 245-day title reign came to an end against The Shield, the duo parted ways.

### Better Enemies:

Unlike some besties, these two started as bitter rivals. Their mutual hatred of WWE Champion CM Punk drove them to compete against each other for the title. Then AJ Lee dragged Kane into a bizarre love saga worthy of a telenovela, making things even more awkward. After they reluctantly joined forces and won the titles, Bryan and Kane would regularly argue over who was the leader of the squad and tried to one-up each other more than Shaq & Kobe.

### Watch this Match:

**Kane vs. Daniel Bryan, SummerSlam 2012**  
Before Kane and Daniel Bryan stepped into anger management, even before Daniel Bryan had a forest on his face, these Superstars competed in a clash of styles, with Bryan eking out a win.

## THE PPV THAT STARTED IT ALL

On April 28, 1996, WWE presented *In Your House 7: Good Friends, Better Enemies*. We'd be remiss not to pay tribute to its top three matches!



### 1.) THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR VS. GOLDUST

Even though he won by Countout, Warrior still stole the show by using Marlena's lit cigar to burn Goldust's hand when The Bizzare One extended it for a regal kiss!



8

## ROB VAN DAM & SABU

### Good Friends:

In the case of RVD and Sabu, the "Good Friends/Better Enemies" tag works backward. By starting as bitter rivals, when Rob Van Dam, new to the ECW scene in the mid-90s, competed against Sabu and refused to show him the proper respect, the two raised bar after hardcore bar in every rematch. In fact, the only reason they eventually teamed up was because they must have known that constant attempts to one-up each other would eventually lead to their combined destruction.

### Better Enemies:

It could be argued that RVD and Sabu were the first extreme opponents of the modern grappling era. Before there was Attitude, there was ECW. And in ECW, no one dared to defy everything—authority, gravity, death—like RVD and Sabu in their mutual pursuits to end each other. The artifacts of this rivalry are only recently being rediscovered (thanks to new ECW DVD releases), and it's a dissension that resonates as such an epic fashion in its time as it does now.

### Watch this Match:

**Rob Van Dam vs. Sabu, The Doctor Is In**

The infamous stretcher match that was supposed to end their rivalry only helped to begin the true legacy of RVD and Sabu. At nearly 20 minutes of solid brutality, the match ended when RVD missed a sternum-splitting plancha to the outside, landing on the stretcher by pure coincidence.



# 30

Percentage of employees in a recent study who said they have a best friend in their workplace. Of that group, 56 percent said they feel connected to their job, while only eight percent of those who don't have a best friend in the workplace feel passionate about their job.

9

## EDGE & CHRISTIAN

### Good Friends:

The legend of Edge and Christian goes back to Mania VI, when the two chummy Canucks sat in the SkyDome. From that moment, both of them knew that they were in the presence of their calling, and they took the first steps on the road toward Superstardom. After burning up the tag team ranks for several years—redefining the Ladder Match, the use of tables, and everything in between—the fires of tag team competition gradually fizzled out, and E&C targeted singles success.

### Better Enemies:

In 2001, sides were chosen throughout the course of the WWE/Alliance rivalry that pitted WWE Superstars against defects from WCW and ECW. Amid the chaos, Edge and Christian crossed paths—after nearly a half decade working together—for the Intercontinental Championship. Fueled by Christian's jealousy that Edge had captured the 2001 King Of The Ring crown, the two future World Champions battled in a series of matches that nearly destroyed a life-long friendship.

### Watch This Match:

**Edge vs. Christian, No Mercy 2001**

In a Ladder Match—the type of bout that made them famous—E&C waged a brutal war for the Intercontinental Championship, with The Rated-R Superstar coming out on the top rung.



### 2.) OWEN HART & THE BRITISH BULLDOG VS. AHMED JOHNSON & JAKE ROBERTS

The strange pairing of Pearl River Powerhouse, Ahmed Johnson, and the born-again Jake Roberts was enough to pique interest. And the fact that their opponents were the brother-in-law duo of Owen Hart and Davey Boy Smith made for a highly entertaining all-around match.



### 3.) SHAWN MICHAELS VS. DIESEL

With the WWE Championship on the line, HBK and Big Daddy Cool—former pals and partners—met in a No Holds Barred Match that implemented everything from a commentator's boot, to a fire extinguisher, to the second broken table in WWE history, to—wait for it—the prosthetic leg of Mad Dog Vachon en route to an HBK victory.





# 2013 HOLIDAY



## 1 Vizio 32" Class Razor LED Smart TV

With built-in Wi-Fi, 1080p HD resolution, it's the perfect addition to any man cave (or woman...den?), and will enhance your WWE viewing experience more than a Diva on each side of the couch! [vizio.com](http://vizio.com)

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Listen to the next WWE pay-per-view via 95dB of room-filling, crystal clear sound thanks to the Vizio 2.0 High Def Sound Bar. If you listen close, you'll even be able to hear that one guy who cheers for Paul Heyman. [vizio.com](http://vizio.com)

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At a WWE event, every seat is the best seat in the house. And now, the HMR2

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## 4 Bowers & Wilkins P3 Red Headphones

Trust us: these are the perfect headphones for watching WWE programming on your mobile device, or rocking out solo to The Bushwackers's theme song. [bowers-wilkins.com](http://bowers-wilkins.com)

## 5 ROKU3 Media Player

For the 10 minutes a week you're NOT watching WWE programming, you'll need the Roku Media Streamer. Access 1,000+ channels of movies, shows, and sporting events. [roku.com](http://roku.com)

## 6 CrossRope

Get Superstar fit with the CrossRope interchangeable jump rope. Swap ropes of different weights and constructions to vary your workout, and create fun workouts that are never the same. [crossrope.com](http://crossrope.com)

## 7 Kmart John Cena Collection Assortment

The Champ's got a closet full of gear from Kmart's John Cena collection for kids ages 5-12. Just don't throw it to the crowd whenever you wear it out. [Kmart.com](http://Kmart.com)

## 8 Every 2013 WWE Blu-ray (Non-PPV)

Sports-entertainment class is in session and with documentaries and career retrospectives on the likes of Triple H and Goldberg.

## 9 Every 2013 WWE Pay-Per-View on DVD!

Relive all of 2013's greatest matches including The Rock challenging CM Punk's 434-day WWE Title reign.

## 10 7 T-Shirts Autographed by Superstars

The good part is that you'll have a brand new shirt for every day of the week. The better part, it will be autographed by a Superstar. The only bad part? If you decide to wear it, you probably won't want to wash it.

## 11 Every 2013 WWE Studios Release

WWE Studios brought some highly anticipated releases in 2013, and with the full roster of silver-screen gems, you can ring in the New Year with your own movie marathon.

## 12 4 Tickets to Raw & SmackDown

Watching WWE from your couch may be a Monday/Friday tradition, but nothing compares to actually being in attendance. Take in the sights and sounds with three of your closest buddies.

## 13 Autographed Wyatt Family Signed Sheep Mask

It's the most terrifying piece of memorabilia you will ever have, but something only a few people live to brag about having: a mask signed by this fearsome threesome.

## 14 Autographed WWE Skateboard Deck

A signed, Superstar-inspired skateboard deck makes for unique wall art, or if you're feeling radical like a Dynamic



# GIFT GUIDE

WWE Magazine is committed to making your WWE experience the best ever! That's why we're giving away a locker-room's worth of gear, goodies and games. And all you have to do to win is enter! Just like the Royal Rumble (except you won't be thrown over the top of any ropes!).



## WWE MAGAZINE DECEMBER SWEEPSTAKES

**NO PAYMENT OR PURCHASE REQUIRED.** Void where prohibited. Enter the **WWE Magazine December Sweepstakes** by visiting **WWE.COM/MAGAZINE/HOLIDAY-GIVEAWAY** to download the required form for mail-in entry. Enter between 12:01 a.m. (ET) on 11/12/13, when Sweepstakes begins, and 11:59 p.m. (ET) on 12/16/13, when Sweepstakes ends. Limit one (1) entry per person per Prize Entry Pool (as defined in the Official Rules). Open only to legal residents of the 50 United States, Washington, D.C., and Canada, excluding Quebec, who are at least 18 years old at time of entry. One (1) prize winner will be randomly drawn from among all eligible entrants for each of 28 separate Prize Entry Pools. If from Canada, winner must correctly answer a mathematical skill-testing question to claim prize. Other restrictions may apply. Sweepstakes subject to complete Official Rules available at **WWW.WWE.COM**. Sponsor: World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc., 1241 East Main Street, Stamford, CT 06902. © WWE. All rights reserved.

Dude (People Power forever!) you can spring for some trucks and new wheels and gleam the cube.

### 15 The Shield Standee Package!

Fight injustice in your town with life-size standees of Dean Ambrose, Seth Rollins, and Roman Reigns! They can also be used for fooling troublesome Christmas burglars into thinking your parents are home.

### 16 Philips Norelco Click & Style Razor

"Shave, Style and Groom. The Philips Norelco Click & Style does it all with three click-off, click-on attachments. Even the wildest beards like Daniel Bryan's need the occasional taming. [philips.com/norelco](http://philips.com/norelco)

### 17 WWE Turnbuckle Pad!

It will certainly impress your friends when you bring this official piece of the ring home. It will not impress them if you eat it like George the Animal Steele.

### 18 Wrist Tape from A Superstar!

Channel some of the best-working hands on the roster by winning wrist-tape potentially worn by current or former Paul Heyman guys.

### 19 A Follow on Twitter from Jack Swagger

Your ranking in the WWE Universe will undoubtedly skyrocket when a Real American like Jack Swagger follows you on Twitter! You might not always like what he says on TV, but trust us...he can be funny, too!

### 20 Daniel Bryan/Goat Autographed Poster Print

Aren't getting enough of Daniel Bryan's face on TV? Enter to win this autographed poster print so you can stare at the goat-like face of WWE all day long!

### 21 Howard Finkel Records Your Voicemail

Sending your girlfriend to voicemail will never offend her again now that you have your official WWE Hall of Famer greeting!

### 22 WWE 2K14 For Every Platform

You've got three chances to become immortal with WWE 2K14. Available on Nintendo Wii, Xbox 360 and Playstation 3. [wwe.2k.com](http://wwe.2k.com)

### 23 Mattel Brawlin' Buddy Prize Pack

Own the latest array of Mattel's Brawlin' Buddies. They're the kind of friends that you can abuse as much as you want but keep coming back for more. Plus, they make great pillows! [mattel.com](http://mattel.com)

### 24 A Phenomenal Figure!

Todd McFarlane, toy designer Superstar has unveiled his latest masterpiece. The Undertaker statue is limited to 850 pieces and will be available on the McFarlane Toys website and WWE Shop. [spawn.com](http://spawn.com)

### 25 A One-Year Hulu Subscription

Not watching NXT yet? With a year's subscription you'll be able to finally catch up on WWE's best show featuring

up-and-coming Superstars. [www.hulu.com](http://www.hulu.com)

### 26 Teabot e2 with WWE App

Win the brand new tablet, pre-loaded with the WWE App! [toysrus.com](http://toysrus.com)

### 27 Autographed WWE Encyclopedia

Discover the rich history of WWE with this autographed encyclopedia signed by a host of Superstars. It has everyone we love from Andre the Giant to Zeus!

### 28 Signed and Framed December 2013 WWE Magazine Cover

How about a WWE Magazine that you can hang up on your wall! Spruce up your bedroom with this issue, autographed by some of your favorite Superstars.



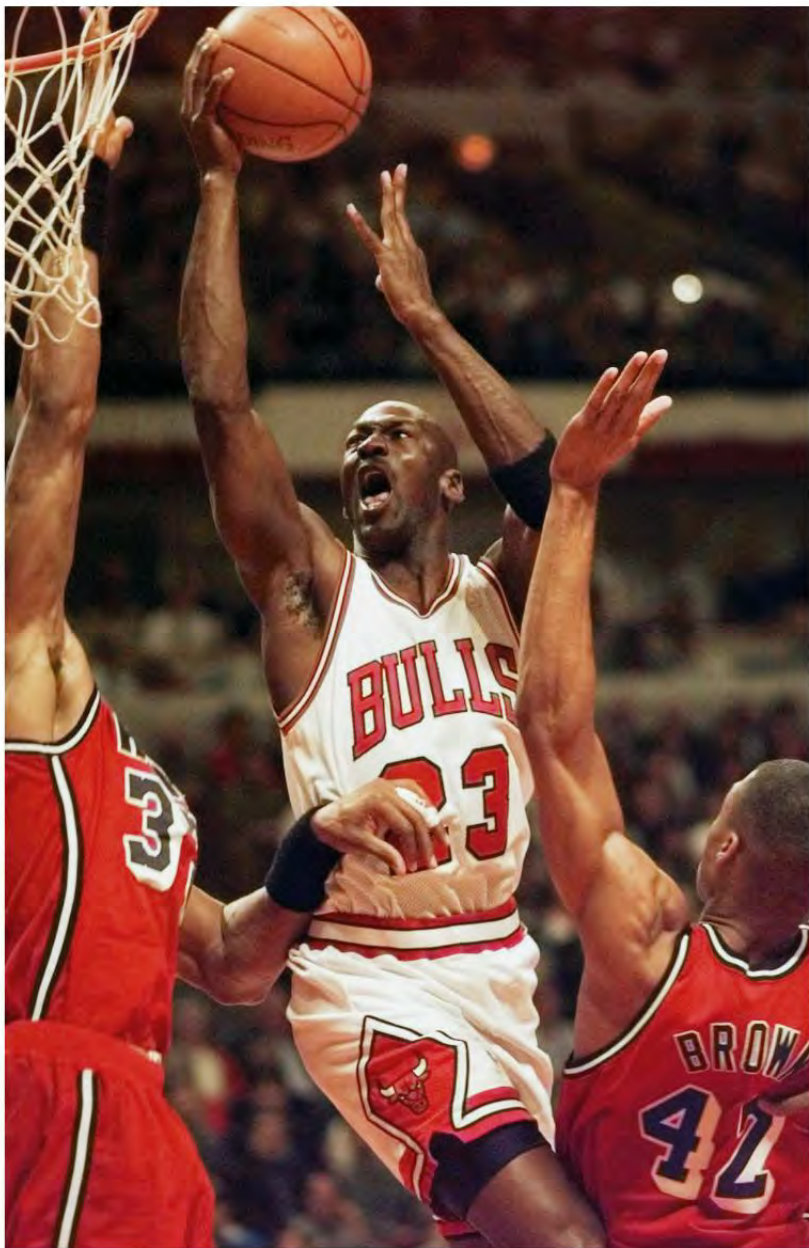
*My*

# FAVORITE ATHLETE



Whether on the court, at the field or in the ring, athletes entertain us by dedicating their hearts, minds and bodies to their craft. Here, 21 Superstars and Divas reveal their idols in the world of competitive sports, and how they've been influenced by them inside and outside WWE.





**ZACK RYDER + R-TRUTH**  
**MICHAEL JORDAN**



**ZACK RYDER**

"Michael Jordan—hands down. The main reason being that *Space Jam* is my favorite movie, and he saved the world in that. Other—but no less important—reasons being that he was really good at basketball, and never gave up, even when he failed. And many of you would be surprised to know that Jordan claims the reason he succeeded is because he just kept playing."



**R-TRUTH**

"I idolized everything about Michael Jordan when I was a kid. He was incredible to watch because he was so good at what he did. There were no others like him—there still aren't! I don't care what anyone says about LeBron coming up and taking his spot. Things were different back then, but the game is the same. Watching him on the court was, in a word, tantalizing."



**HORNSWOGGLE**  
**DAN MARINO**

"He's my childhood hero. I wanted to be him growing up, and he could do no wrong in my eyes. When I think of football, I think of him because he's just a great all-around player and a strong representative for the sport. Plus, he holds almost all the passing records. Can't argue with the stats."



**WADE BARRETT**  
**NIGEL BENN**

"Nigel Benn is a former British Heavyweight boxer known as The Dark Destroyer. With Benn, it was never a drawn-out match—he always got right to the point and ended things quickly. He was a warrior, and he fought with no mercy. How can I not respect a guy like that?"





**TAMINA SNUKA**  
**LEBRON JAMES**

"He's a team player, and that's the main reason why I admire him. I know he gets a lot of Heat—no pun intended—but he's just the best there is right now, and no one can dispute that. People hate on LeBron because of his move to Miami, but I admire a guy who isn't afraid to do things his way."



**AJ LEE**  
**DANICA PATRICK**

"I've always loved her. She's out there doing her thing because she loves it, and against the odds, she's achieved great success and paved the way for other women who will come after her. She doesn't give a crap what anyone else thinks, and isn't afraid to be exactly who she is. I can relate to that."



**BIG E LANGSTON**  
**DERRICK BROOKS**

"I first followed Brooks because I was huge Florida State fan, but eventually I began to watch him specifically as a player. He was a strong addition to the line, and deserved being named as an All-American, twice! I certainly wouldn't want to meet him on the field—the guy's a monster."



**HEATH SLATER**  
**MIKE TYSON**

"His outrageous career and his record high-lights speak for themselves. Tyson's extreme antics and skills shocked the world, and I don't care who you are, you know who Mike is. It takes a special kind of guy to pull off those face tattoos, too, and he does it flawlessly."

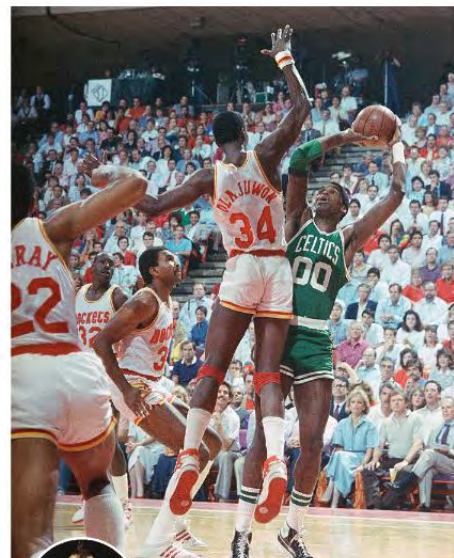






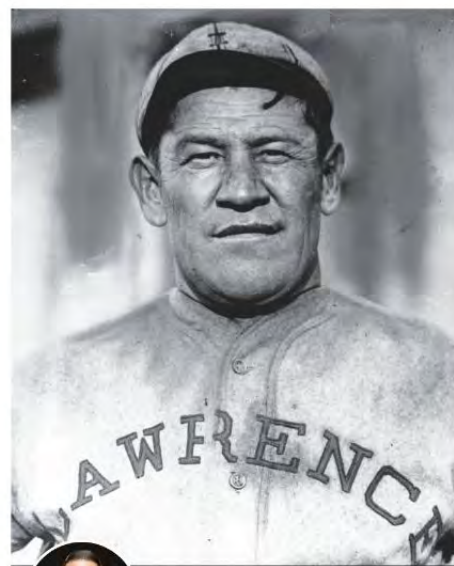
**CURTIS AXEL**  
**BO JACKSON**

"How can anyone go with anyone other than Bo Jackson? To say he was multi-talented is an understatement. His speed was electrifying, and as an All-Star in two major sports—football and baseball—he was just an athletic freak. No one compares. His whole career is fascinating."



**BRODUS CLAY**  
**ROBERT PARISH**

"The Chief! The man was huge, but he pulled off moves unheard of for a guy his size. I respected him because he had a quiet and unassuming nature. He was just there to play ball. And as a bigger guy myself, he made me feel like I could do anything I put my mind to."



**DAMIEN SANDOW**  
**JIM THORPE**

"There is no other fitting answer than this man, the first-ever Olympic triathlete. Thorpe demanded excellence from himself, and was outstanding in track and field, football and baseball. He was named to numerous Hall of Fames, and is even in possession of two gold medals."





**CURT HAWKINS**  
**MATT HARVEY**

"I know he's an up-and-comer and hasn't cemented his place among the greats yet, but I like what I've seen from him so far. So, I'm using this forum to call it now: Matt Harvey is one to watch for. Plus, I'm a Mets fan, and not afraid to admit we need all the help we can get."



**BRAD MADDOX**  
**JAKE DELHOMME**

"I'm probably the only person in history who will ever pick him, because it's love or hate with that guy, but I love him. He got the short end of the stick, was never on a good team. I couldn't help but respect him. If you have any jokes or rude things to say about that, I'll have to intercept them."



**BIG SHOW**  
**DWAYNE WADE**

"He's a family man, and he plays the game the right way. You don't always see that these days, with all the hype and circumstance that surround professional athletes. People get lost or mixed up in the wrong thing, but he's one guy that just plays because he loves the game and it's his passion."



**ALBERTO DEL RIO**  
**CRISTIANO RONALDO**

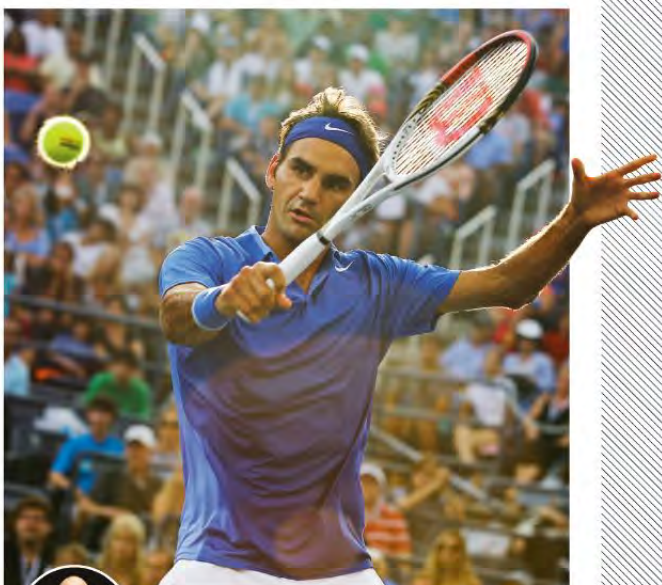
"My favorite sport outside of wrestling is soccer, and my favorite athlete is Cristiano Ronaldo, who plays for Real Madrid. He's broken records all around the world and in the Spanish league. He's not just a fantastic player; he's an amazing human being. He's always contributing to charities and runs an organization in Mexico for kids with cancer. He gives so much of himself."





**DOLPH ZIGGLER**  
**JONATHAN QUICK**

"I've seen every possible playoff hockey game there is, and once, I watched this guy literally carry his team to the next round. He was that good at his job as a goaltender. Even if you don't understand hockey, you would realize he won that game all by himself. Most of the shots, I didn't even see the puck. I respect his focus and he seems to thrive under pressure, like I do. I admire him."



**ANTONIO CESARO**  
**ROGER FEDERER**

"Well, he's Swiss, so that puts him at the top of my list—and an inspiration because he's dedicated to the sport he loves, and always shows up ready to dominate. Not to mention the ATP's ranked him in the top five for over 543 weeks. It's just like a Swiss to be perfect—and naturally impress the masses—at his craft."



**THE SHIELD**



**CHUCK LIDELL**



**WESLEY BERRY\***

**BO JACKSON**

**DEAN AMBROSE**

"Chuck Liddell—for what he stands for. No BS. He's a real salt-of-the-Earth kind of guy and a true competitor."

**ROMAN REIGNS**

"Wesley '2 Scoops' Berry, from American Gladiators. Look up his résumé; those are the only reasons I need."

**SETH ROLLINS**

"Bo Jackson. He was the fastest offensive player—and one of the most powerful, even in Tecmo Bowl."

\*NOT PICTURED...



**THE MIZ**



**JOSE CANSECO**



**DAN MARINO**



**MAGIC JOHNSON**

"Growing up, it was football, basketball and baseball. Those were the three sports. When I was a kid, I always went against the grain. If everyone liked a certain team, I went against it. Everyone was a Browns fan in Cleveland, everyone was a Cavs fan, so I went to Dan Marino and Magic Johnson instead. I am also a big fan of Jose Canseco, believe it or not."



# INSIDER

★ THE CLOSEST YOU'LL GET TO THE RING WITHOUT BEING BETWEEN THE ROPES

## Revolt Of The Year Nominee

**You Think You Can  
Tell Us What To Do?**



The WWE locker room had all it can stand, and it can't stand no more. So when Daniel Bryan found himself on the receiving end of a 4-on-1 beatdown—the same night Triple H stripped him of his WWE Title—10 Superstars tipped the scales in Bryan's favor by rushing to his aid. The rebels didn't back down the following week, assuring they wouldn't watch helplessly from the sidelines anymore. **Raw, 9/23**











# Hardcore Moment Of The Year Nominee

## Orton Unleashes His Vicious Side



**Stephanie McMahon told Randy Orton that she wanted** to see his malicious side resurface after The Viper lost the WWE Championship at *Night Of Champions*. In the end, Orton delivered, choosing to focus on bringing pain rather than securing wins. The Apex Predator set his sights on punishing Rob Van Dam during the 9/23/13 edition of *Raw*, throwing him into the steel steps before planting his head into the mat with a top-rope DDT. Be careful what you wish for, Stephanie, because The Viper is back. **9/23, Raw**







**"For the past two years, I've been suppressing what I really am inside because I thought that's what you all wanted. ...I locked away the relentless, remorseless, sadistic Viper of old. I locked away The Viper who was void of morality."**

**RANDY ORTON**, on trying to be popular; 9/20, SmackDown

## Rivalry Of The Year Nominee

Del Rio & Ricardo's Breakup Gets Rough



It's hard to see World Champ Alberto Del Rio and Ricardo Rodriguez in the same ring without feeling awkward. For years, they were inseparable. Now, each is always plotting and planning the other's demise—breakups are tricky. Del Rio injured Rodriguez's shoulder when the former buddies squared off on the 9/13 *SD*. But after Del Rio earned a DQ loss at *Night Of Champions*, Rodriguez helped his new boss Rob Van Dam send ADR home with a Coast-To-Coast chairshot. **9/15, Night Of Champions**

## Bodyguard Of The Year Nominee

**You've Got A Friend In Tamina**

With Divas Champion AJ Lee on a mission to rid WWE of the cast of *Total Divas*, she's pretty much isolated herself from the rest of the Divas locker room. But the champ found at least one friend when she enlisted the toughest Diva on the roster, Tamina Snuka, to be her permanent protector. **9/27, Smackdown**



## Stat Slam

Amount of time, in seconds, Antonio Cesaro spun Santino Marella right round—like a record, baby—in a Cesaro Swing during Santino's return on the 9/9 *Raw*.







Penalty: Two minutes for Roughing.

# Horrible Homecomings

Home May Be Where The Heart Is, But Lately, It's Also Been The Site Of Some Brutal Nights For WWE Superstars & Legends...

## 1. Edge Told To Leave Toronto

**Hall of Famer Edge spoke out in his**

hometown against Triple H's misevaluation of Daniel Bryan. So the COO responded by calling Edge overrated, unleashing The Shield on his BFF Christian and giving The Rated-R Superstar the boot from the Air Canada Centre. It was the worst display of hospitality in Canada's history and something only Snidely Whiplash could appreciate. **9/9, Raw**

## 2. Miz Injured In Cleveland

**Singer Ian Hunter would argue "Cleveland Rocks,"** but it didn't for The Cleve's native son, The Miz, when he squared off against Randy Orton. His Cleveland Browns-inspired gear didn't help against Orton, who ambushed The Awesome One while he hugged his parents at ringside. The Viper ultimately sandwiched Miz in a chair, injuring his larynx, as his fellow Clevelanders watched in horror. **9/16, Raw**

## 3. CM Punk Gets Winded in Chicago

**One week after his humiliating loss to Paul Heyman at *Night Of Champions***—thanks to Ryback's assist—CM Punk stormed into Chicago in the foulest of moods. Proudly wearing a Chicago Blackhawks jersey, Punk promised he'd continue to fight. But the speech didn't inspire Intercontinental Champ Curtis Axel and Ryback, who pounced on Punk, hurling him through a table. **9/23, Raw**



**"I haven't smiled in eight days, but I come out here and I can't help myself."**

**CM PUNK**, on being in front of his fellow Chicagoans, and turning a frown upside-down; Raw, 9/23/13



# Who Says You Can't Go Home?

If things continue this way, these Superstars could potentially be in jeopardy with WWE coming to their towns next. Be warned!



## Tampa: 11/1, *SmackDown*

A lot of Superstars call Tampa home, but Big E Langston was born and raised in the Florida city.

## Charlotte: 11/8, *SmackDown*

R-Truth needs to keep on his toes when *SmackDown* rolls into Charlotte.

## Long Island: 11/25, *Raw*

The "Ryder or riot" signs will be countless when WWE rolls into the L.I. home to Zack Ryder.

## Oklahoma City: 12/2, *Raw*

Will someone rain on Jack Swagger's parade when the former Oklahoma Sooner returns to OKC?

## Seattle: 12/9, *Raw*

How will Daniel Bryan fare in Seattle, two hours north of his childhood home of Aberdeen, WA?

## Irony Of The Year Nominee

### Ryback Speaks Out Against Bullies

After weeks of pushing around local athletes, Ryback revealed he actually can't stand bullies. So when CM Punk looked to hand Paul Heyman a kendo-stick beat-down at *Night Of Champions*, Ryback stepped in, later saying he wouldn't allow a "bully" like Punk to push Heyman around anymore. Hello pot, meet kettle. **9/16, Raw**



**"I am here tonight because one man took the initiative to change history. ...I owe my life to Ryback."**

**PAUL HEYMAN**, praising The Human Wrecking Ball after he saved Heyman at *Night Of Champions*; 9/16, *Raw*



## Axel Meter Of Perfection

We document "Paul Heyman Guy" Curtis Axel's rise to the top each month by rating his performance.



**Axel Stays The Course**

Axel celebrated his first 100 days with the Intercontinental Championship, and with Ryback now aligned with Heyman, too, that muscle will surely help Axel in the long run. Disagree with our evaluation of Axel? Sound off on Twitter: @WWEmagazine.

## Stat Slam!

Percentage of matches Edge won in his hometown Toronto during his WWE career.



# 57%





Who knew they  
made UGGs  
for bulls?

# Debut Of The Year Nomine

Los Matadores Are Seeing Red



Even after weeks of hype, no one could've predicted what Los Matadores would bring to the ring in WWE. After luring an acrobatic little bull named El Torito to ringside, the duo flew around the mat and made 3MB feel like a couple of gulla-bulls for thinking they could stop the highfliers. **9/30, Raw**



3MB—still  
trying!

## Payback Of The Year Nominee

Cody & Goldust Get Even

September started like an American Nightmare for the Rhodes family. First, COO Triple H fired Cody before his wedding, then Goldust returned to unsuccessfully battle for Cody's job. The last straw came when Stephanie McMahon mockingly presented Dusty with a gift card for the newlyweds before forcing Big Show to KO him. Cody and Goldust finally fought back the next week, though, sneaking into the arena and attacking The Shield in a scene of pure chaos. **9/23, Raw**



An angry Rhodes is  
a dangerous Rhodes.

P34 WWE FAN ART OF THE MONTH CONTEST FOR December '13. NO PAYMENT OR ENTRY FEE REQUIRED. Void where prohibited. Open only to legal residents of the 50 United States (and D.C.), 18 and older. Online entries must be received between 12:01 am (ET) on 11/12/13 and 11:59 pm (ET) on 12/16/13 (the "Contest Period"). Go to [WWW.WWE.COM/MAGAZINE/](http://WWW.WWE.COM/MAGAZINE/) and create a user profile, then submit

your entry by uploading artwork depicting WWE Superstars (the "Submission"). Submissions must be two dimensional (flat) and online entries must be in .jpg, .pdf, or .tif format and at least 300 dpi. To enter by mail, send your Submission, along with your name and other information required in the Official Rules, to: WWE Fan Art of the Month Contest for December '13, Publications, WWE, 1241 East Main St., Stamford,

CT 06902. Mail-in entries must be postmarked during the Contest Period and received by WWE no later than 12/23/13. Limit 1 entry per person regardless of entry method. You must own all rights to your Submission, assign all such rights to WWE and acknowledge such assignment at time of entry. Entries will not be returned. You will not be paid for your Submission. Grand Prize: One (1) *SummerSlam 2013*

DVD. Approximate retail value ("ARV") of Grand Prize: \$30 USD Contest subject to complete Official Rules available at [WWW.WWE.COM](http://WWW.WWE.COM) and by sending a SASE (VT residents may omit return postage) to: WWE Fan Art of the Month Contest for December '13 Rules Request, WWE, 1241 East Main St., Stamford, CT 06902. Sponsor: WWE, 1241 East Main Street, Stamford, CT 06902. © WWE, All rights reserved.



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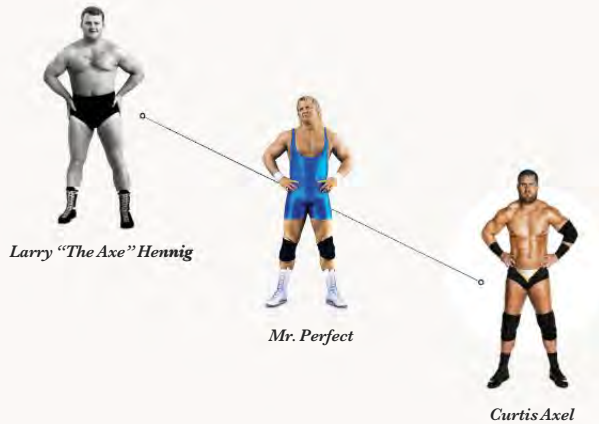
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# ALL IN THE FAMILY

With a simple but poignant name change, **Curtis Axel** quickly became a top player in WWE, notching victories over Triple H and John Cena and winning the Intercontinental Championship. Here, the third-gen Superstar reflects on playing poker with Mr. Perfect, going fishing with Larry "The Axe," and how he thinks he'll rewrite his family's legacy.



**W**hen you made your debut as a “Paul Heyman guy,” he outlined how your name Curtis Axel symbolized a mix between your father “Mr. Perfect” Curt Hennig and grandfather Larry “The Axe” Hennig. Which parts of you are your father, and which parts are your grandfather?

Well, my grandfather was known as a big, rugged brawler—pretty much a clobber guy. Even though he was an NCAA Champion in college, he didn’t have the technical aspects. As for WWE in-ring work, he was a fighter; he had a brawler kind of style. That’s where I get my ruthless aggression and my ground-and-pound technique. My father was one of the best—if not the best—technical wrestlers WWE has ever seen. He was a pure wrestler. So I add that to my repertoire, too. His agility and speed—I was fortunate enough to get that handed down to me through him.

**What about your personality and attitude?**

If you really knew them, you’d know they were awesome dudes. They’re the nicest guys. But if you did the wrong thing to them, you would have to reap the repercussions of that. My grandpa’s attitude coming down to the ring was that he was going to beat your ass. Now that I’m the Intercontinental Champion and I’m with Paul Heyman, I’m arrogant. I’m living on top of the world right now. There’s nothing I should be mad about. There’s nothing for me to be upset about. I’m a champion—I’m going to rub it in their face, be cocky and arrogant. That’s what I get from watching my dad. That’s the type of person he was.

**The Hennig name casts a large shadow. How do you pay tribute to your family’s legacy and still make sure you’re unique?**

I pay tribute by doing my father’s moves. It’s not that I do them because I can, it’s because I do them as a tribute to him. He was my best friend. I looked up to him as my hero. When I do any moves my father did, I pay tribute to him. But when I do those maneuvers, I put my own twist on it. Plus, I do things they never did. I have different maneuvers, and the way I do things in the ring, I had to figure them out on my own. That’s how I separate myself from them. From the very beginning, I always wanted to be me anyway. I didn’t want to be the next Mr. Perfect. I didn’t want to be the next Larry “The Axe” Hennig. I wanted to be me from the get-go.

**You’re very close with your grandfather. You mentioned in the past that you live about 40 minutes from him and you guys talk a couple of times per week. What do you do when you visit?**

We just had a show here in Minneapolis and he came down. It was really cool to see him walking around the locker rooms and to see him living it up like a little kid. He lives in a lakehouse up north from me. He’s got a cool setup on this lake. We’ll sit in his living room and play cribbage or go on his boat and do some fishing. My family is huge on the outdoors. We do a lot of cruising



“FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, I ALWAYS WANTED

TO BE ME. I DIDN’T WANT TO BE THE NEXT MR.

PERFECT. I DIDN’T WANT TO BE THE NEXT LARRY ‘THE AXE’ HENNIG.”

around the lake on the pontoon, casting out the rod, and catching some fish.

**What’s he think of the current WWE scene?**

He likes it, man. He really enjoys what’s going on in the WWE Universe, especially what I’ve been doing and especially now that I have “Axe” in my name. He really gets a kick out of that. He’s old-school. He knows it’s going to evolve and change, and in 10 years—or 20 years—down the road, it’s going to be different than when I’m in it. It’s constantly evolving and he knows that, but he loves it. He really, really enjoys wrestling, period.

**We’ve heard that your dad was quite the jokester. Any pranks you can share?**

So many. We were outdoorsmen, and there would be so many times we’d be out before the sun would come up. We’d be in the car and he’d give me a chop to the chest or fart in the car and keep the windows shut so I couldn’t even breathe. After he came home from being on the road, or him and my mom were on a date, he’d come wake me up in the middle of the night, mess with me and pick me up out of bed. I’d say, “Get the hell off me! I’m trying to sleep.” With my friends in high school, if we were up late playing poker downstairs, he’d wake up, come downstairs in his underwear, take all our money and then go back up.

**Did you ever get any pranks over on him?**

He was impossible. Plus, I wasn’t that good at it. I’d try, but there was no way. He’d always bust me. But now that I’m older, I can think of some things he did, and I’m a little bit smarter.

**Now, the WWE Universe doesn’t know much about you outside what they see on Raw. What’s one thing they absolutely need to learn about the man behind Curtis Axel?**

I’m a cocky, arrogant, good guy and all that kind of stuff. But when you push the wrong buttons, bad things are going to happen. I’m just getting

going here. People who don’t know just see me as starting out. I’m going to be here for a while. A message for the people who judge me by what I’ve done so far: It’s just the start of things, man.

**Your dad once sang about rap being crap. What music do you like to listen to?**

I basically listen to anything, but I’m a big country western fan. Old-school stuff that I was brought up into that I’ve been listening to for years like Hank Williams Jr., Merle Haggard, John Anderson, Johnny Cash—all those old-school country western singers. I like the new stuff, too, but not as much as I do the old stuff. In the gym, I like to listen to rock, like Shinedown. But when I’m at home or in the car, it’s country music.

**What else keeps you entertained on your days off, and what do you love to indulge in?**

Fishing. I have two boys—a son who’s five and a son who’s 20 months—so I spend a lot of time with them around the yard and playing catch and teaching them. That’s pretty much all I do. If I get a chance to bring the boat out on the lake, I’ll bring them and do a little fishing. I like to spend time with my family. That’s No. 1 in my life.

**Your family is certainly known for its athleticism. Did you play any sports in school?**

I played baseball, football, and wrestling in high school until about 10th grade. But I had enough of that. And then I played recreational men’s softball very competitively in my city. We went to nationals. I did a few years of playing that. I also played flag football in the mud and in the snow—just really fun, recreational stuff. I really love playing golf when I get a chance, but now it’s kind of tough. But on the road, I try to hit a course up every chance I get.

**We have to ask, have you ever tried to throw a football to yourself?**

Everybody who’s seen that vignette has. You’ve got to try it and all that kind of stuff like hitting the gum. Yeah, I’ve tried it...and I’ve succeeded.



# WHO'S NEXT?

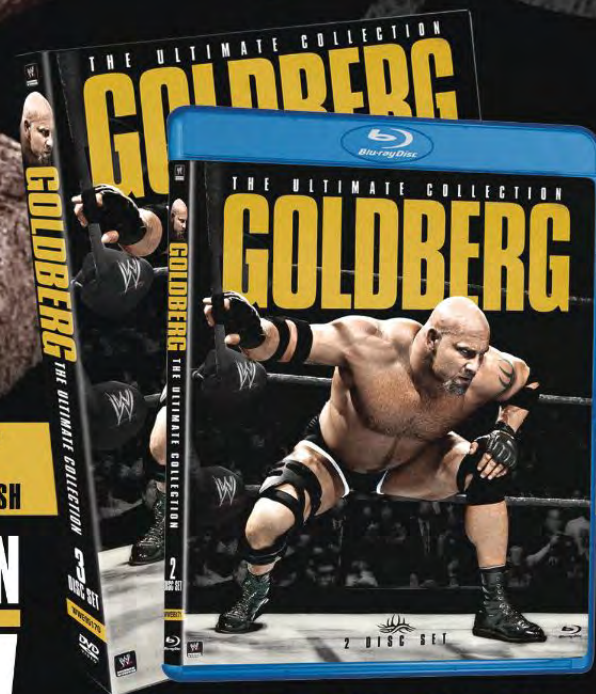
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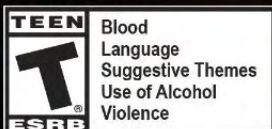
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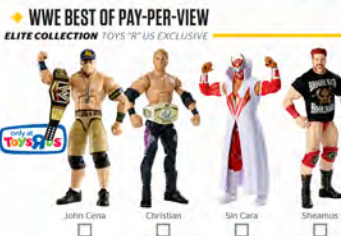
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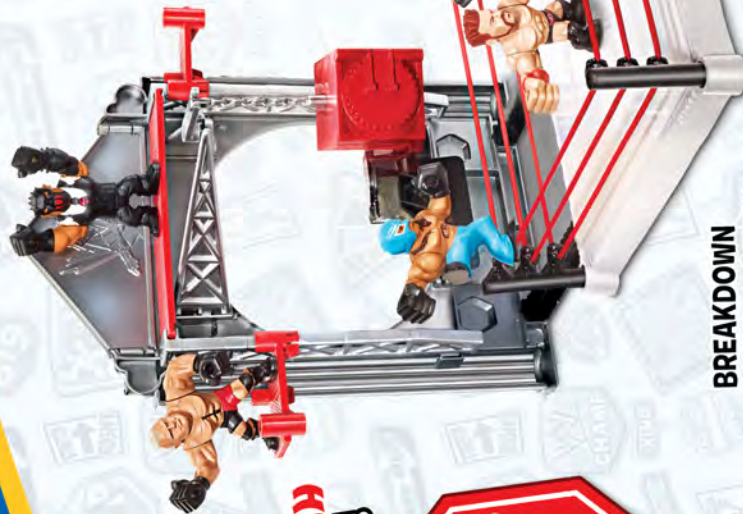


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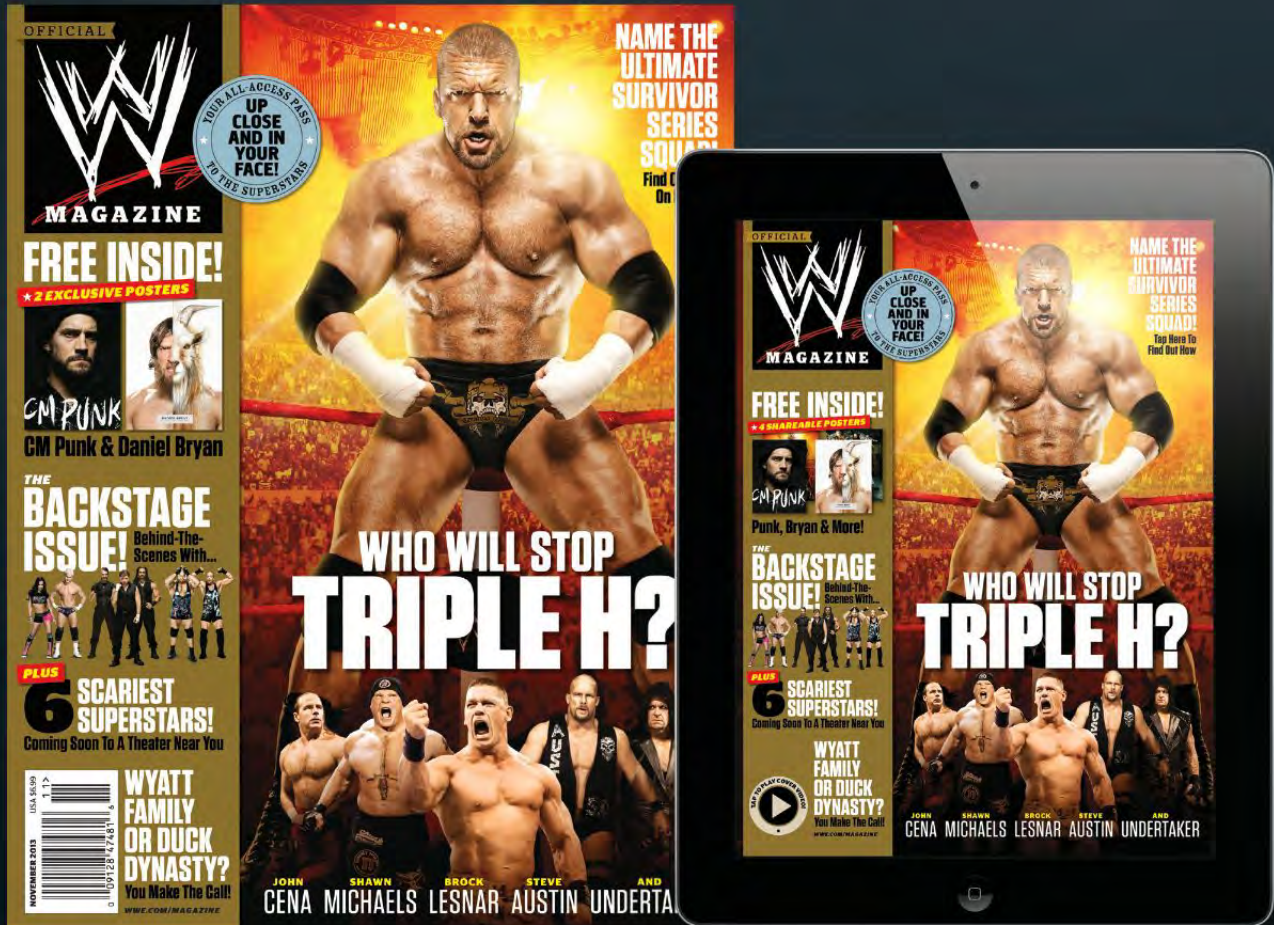
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